

Alameda County's slow march to equality
Gay marriage activists are still waiting for
supervisors to support same-sex nuptials.
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Gays part of everyday
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

'Pink Brick' for DiFi

by Matthew S. Bajko

California's senior senator, Dianne Feinstein, who famously said last year that San Francisco's gay marriages were "too much, too fast, too soon," is being honored with a "Pink Brick" this year by the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee.



Dianne Feinstein

Feinstein beat out homophobic Lou Sheldon and his Traditional Values Coalition for the dubious honor, which is given to those seen as impediments to gay rights. Out of a total of 770 votes, Feinstein garnered 363, 232 more votes than Sheldon, who received 131. The coalition came in second with 276 votes.

"She has never been a leader for advancing gay rights. I think that,"

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Grand marshals named

by Zak Szymanski

The community has chosen grand marshals for the 2005 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, with the honors going to Donna Sachet, Juanita More, James Hormel, and Randy Burns, and the organization Pets Are Wonderful Support.



Donna Sachet

The four individuals chosen as marshals garnered the highest number of public votes and will be joined by two other individual grand marshals to be selected by the Pride membership and a college of former grand marshals.

"We're thrilled with the folks who won. Donna, Juanita, James, and Randy all represent the diversity of the community and all of them have

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Gays react to pope's death

by Cynthia Laird

Many Bay Area gays reacted with mixed feelings to the death Saturday of Pope John Paul II. The spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, which has more than 1 billion members worldwide, died in his papal apartment at the Vatican. He was 84 and had been in poor health, suffering from a variety of ailments, including Parkinson's disease.

While media outlets, particularly cable television, provided continuous coverage of the pope's death over the weekend and showed clips of his many travels around the world during his 26-year reign, there was little discussion about the more controversial aspects of John Paul's leadership. The pope regularly issued statements condemning gays, and the church remains opposed to ordaining women as priests and allowing priests to marry.



Father John Savard (back to camera) greets parishioners of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro Sunday, April 3 following Mass, which included special prayers and music for the late Pope John Paul II.

Gays, however, were quick to seize on those shortcomings, and gay Catholics expressed their grief over the pope's death.

The Reverend Michael Ellard, senior pas-

tor at Spirit Connection Metropolitan Community Church in San Jose, is a former Catholic who has talked with members of his congregation and others about the pope during the last several days.

"One of the things that has most surprised me in talking with current and former Roman Catholics is how grateful people are to hear that it's okay to forgive the pope, to pray for him, and to pray for the future of the Roman Catholic Church," Ellard said in an e-mail to the Bay Area Reporter. "As horrible as the pope has been on issues of gay rights and women's rights, the people I've talked to still want to live in a place of forgiveness and love, not anger and bitterness."

Dignity/San Francisco, a local chapter of the national LGBT Catholic organization Dignity USA, issued a statement Sunday, just after its annual Pax et Bonum Awards event Saturday night where Mayor Gavin Newsom, lesbian pio-

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Momentum seen for gay marriage bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

As state lawmakers prepare for April hearings on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, LGBT activists and politicians say momentum is building behind their efforts to pass a pro-gay marriage bill.

Their hopes of seeing California become the first state to legalize gay marriage without a court order were buoyed this week when a Sacramento appeals court upheld the state's domestic partner laws. The ruling comes just weeks after San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer ruled that the state codes restricting marriage only to heterosexual couples are unconstitutional.

Also, both the California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Anti-Defamation League voiced support for marriage equality in letters to Equality California, a statewide LGBT lobbying organization, this week.

"It builds a lot of momentum in the right direction and is very effective in moving members" of the Legislature to support gay marriage, said Geoff Kors, Equality California executive director.

The Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District in Sacramento upheld the validity of AB205, ruling Monday, April 4 that the comprehensive domestic partnership law enacted by the California Legislature in 2003 does not violate Proposition 22, the ballot

initiative approved by voters in 2000 that defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

The ruling rebuffed efforts by antigay groups who had filed suit arguing that the law was marriage but by a different name and upheld the decision of Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Loren McMaster, who upheld the validity of AB205 in a decision issued on September 8, 2004.

"This is a resounding victory for fairness and equality," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which was co-counsel in the case. "Domestic partnership is not marriage, and the court soundly rejected the tortured efforts of extreme right-wing groups to distort the language of Proposition 22 and to strike down validly enacted legislation protecting lesbian and gay people and their families. The voters in this state overwhelmingly support providing equal rights and benefits to same-sex couples. The notion that AB205 violates the will of the people in this state is absurd, and the Court of Appeal rightly rejected it."

The ruling arose in the context of two lawsuits, one filed by the late Senator Pete Knight and the other by the Campaign for California Families, which argued that the new law violates Proposition 22.

Kramer's ruling in the marriage cases in effect overturns Proposition 22, but he has stayed his ruling for at least a year as the case makes its way to the state's Supreme Court. The antigay groups plan to appeal Kramer's ruling.



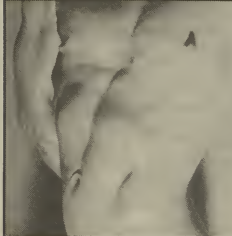
San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno

Both legal rulings bolster arguments that same-sex couples deserve the same protections and benefits as straight couples, said Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). Leno is lobbying his fellow Democratic lawmakers to secure the 41 votes he needs to assure passage of AB19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. While he is confident he has the votes to pass the legislation out of committee, Leno is still five votes shy of seeing AB19 pass on the Assembly floor.

"Judge Kramer's decision is enormously important and it is of assistance to have yet another read of the constitution declaring there is no constitutional basis for this discrimination. It underscores the foundation of why we are moving the bill forward," Leno said. "Now the decision here in Sacramento,

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DiFi

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combined with her very public statement "too much, too fast, too soon," led the community to make her the winner of the Pink Brick this year," said Pride board president Joey Cain, who added that he personally was shocked to see Feinstein named the winner.

Though he said, "I think that really, Dianne Feinstein has always been controversial in the gay community."

Feinstein's office had no comment Wednesday morning. Her supporters are outraged that the Pride committee even selected the Democratic lawmaker for the category and are now bestowing her with the award.

"My first reaction is the lunatics have taken over the asylum because you don't judge a quarter century of service to the community or city when she gave a reaction to a question, which is what she did," said Allen White. "This is the kind of thing that is going to cause the wrong kind of ripples. It is going to cause a lot of things to happen, that is not a good thing for our community."

White said there are other offi-

cials more deserving of the reward, pointing out that even openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) disparaged Mayor Gavin Newsom for ordering city officials to wed same-sex couples last year, calling it a wrong decision and playing into the hands of Republicans who used gay marriage as a wedge issue in the election.

"Barney Frank, his comments were much more strident than Dianne Feinstein's," said White.

Thom Lynch, executive director of the LGBT Community Center, said he is not surprised that more people voted for Feinstein because many people were upset at her comment.

"I think Dianne Feinstein is dead wrong about marriage and I think the comments she made earlier were inaccurate and not helpful. But she is not the enemy," said Lynch. "Sheldon is going to cost our community a huge battle when it comes to a constitutional amendment. In my mind he is clearly the problem in that group of people."

Even before the Pride committee announced the results of this year's grand marshals and the Pink Brick recipient late Tuesday night, organizers of the parade were being berated for their decision to

nominate Feinstein. Ray Mulliner sent an e-mail Tuesday to express his "outrage as a gay man and longtime resident of San Francisco."

"In our struggle we have had many enemies, such as Lou Sheldon and TVC. Dianne Feinstein is not among them. She deserves more from this community than a knee-jerk reaction," wrote Mulliner. "Many younger GLBT people do not know or remember the senator's actions as mayor of San Francisco when she opened City Hall to many gay men and lesbians for appointments and employment. We cannot afford to alienate our friends. I urge you to do the right thing, admit the mistake and recall her nomination for this unattractive award."

In a phone interview Wednesday, Mulliner said, "She was responding to one question in the context of the election. This was not how do you feel about the gay community as a whole. This mentality of either you are with us or against us has trickled down to us and it is ugly."

Others disagree, saying over the years Feinstein has let down the gay community and not fought hard enough for LGBT rights.

"She has a long history of not being there for our community and making comments that not only are disrespectful of our community but encourage bigotry," said Robert Haaland, past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

Feinstein has had a long and torturous track record with the LGBT community. A supervisor, she became acting mayor of San Francisco in November 1978 after she stood on the steps of City Hall to inform a shocked city of the deaths of Mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk, the first openly

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TIC legislation defeated

by Zak Szymanski

Controversial legislation that would have allowed hundreds of tenancy-in-common buildings to convert to condominiums went down in defeat 6-4 at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, April 5.

The legislation – by Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Michela Alioto-Pier – needed six votes to pass, but was unable to muster support beyond its early backers, including Supervisors Sean Elsbernd and Fiona Ma. Voting against the legislation were Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Sophie Maxwell, Jake McGoldrick, Aaron Peskin, and Gerardo Sandoval. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, a TIC owner, was obligated to recuse himself from the vote.

The bill would have allowed TICs that have been 100-percent owner-occupied before January 20 to bypass the condominium lottery, a process that most recently included about 1,500 contenders for 200 slots, the amount of condominium conversions annually allowed under law. The ordinance was meant as a one-time grandfathering provision for eligible buildings, some of which may not have been eligible for the lottery at all, which requires that at least one unit in a TIC be owner-occupied for a three-year period.

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Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier

units and the ability to secure home equity. TICs, on the other hand, consist of one mortgage for an entire building, with residents of separate units equally responsible for each other.

Speaking on behalf of the legislation at a meeting of the Land Use Committee last week, Alioto-

Pier said that TICs provided important home ownership opportunities for middle-class families, "the backbone of San Francisco."

"It's one of the first ways they get their foot in the door," she said, adding that without the financial security that comes from condominium conversion, families have little incentive to stay in the city.

"We're losing our families. San Francisco has fewer children per capita than any other city," she said, citing figures that showed children brought revenue into cities and created constituencies for quality of life issues like parks and recreation opportunities.

LGBT supporters had other reasons for backing the bill, with District 8 resident Gustavo Serina noting that gays and lesbians in TICs needed the security of home ownership, particularly since the population has fewer welcoming options for relocation.

Opponents of the bill, who sported "Don't Reward Evictors"

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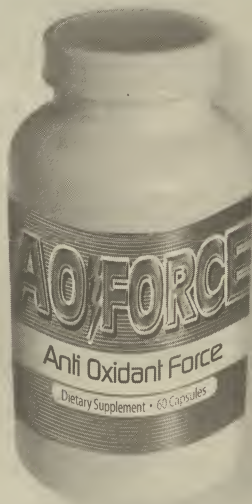
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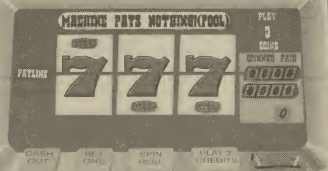
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New Leaf spring gala is coming up

compiled by Cynthia Laird

New Leaf: Services for Our Community will host its annual spring gala Tuesday, April 12 at Teatro Zinzanni, located on Pier 29 in San Francisco. Special celebrity guests include Honey Labrador and Robbie Laughlin of Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*. Celebrity guest master of ceremonies will be Leslie Jordan of NBC's *Will & Grace*. This is the third year Teatro Zinzanni has hosted New Leaf's gala, and the event takes place inside the splendid antique spiegel tent, named Le Palais Nostalgie, which is one of the few remaining hand-crafted traveling tents built in the early 1920s in Europe.

New Leaf provides mental health, substance abuse, and social support services to the LGBT community. Now in its 30th year, the agency continues to help low-income clients with an array of services, including a program for LGBT seniors and families.

Next week's gala starts at 6 p.m. with a cocktail and buffet reception and a silent auction. Entertainment will be provided by Kitten on the Keys, Anita Cocktail, Gregangelo Arts and Enter-

tainment, and DJ Page Model.

Several local leaders will receive awards during the program. This year's honorees include Jeffrey Serman and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. and hospitals; the Academy of Friends; and the Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon, senior pastor at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, and the Metropolitan Community Foundation.

Tickets start at \$150. For more information, visit www.newleafservices.org or call (415) 255-0381.

Queer radio program expands

"Out in the Bay," a LGBT-themed local weekly radio program celebrates

its first six months on the air by expanding to one-half hour, executive producer Eric Jansen announced. The show's first program in its new format airs tonight (Thursday, April 7) at 7:30 p.m. on KALW 91.7 FM and online at www.kalw.org.

This week's program features a 20-minute documentary on the legendary disco diva Sylvester and the loss of fabulousness in gay life today. Comedian and commentator Marilyn Pittman produced the piece.

Jansen also said that the show's Web site, www.outinthebay.net allows people to listen to past

shows, which have been archived.

IEP open house

The Immune Enhancement Project in San Francisco is celebrating the efforts of its volunteer staff by extending an invitation to interested community members to attend an open house Friday, April 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 3450 16th Street. Executive Director Robert Goergen said the event, also billed as a volunteer appreciation night, will feature a photography exhibit by Heather Rowley, food, spirits, fun, raffle drawings, a silent auction, and entertainment.

IEP is a nonprofit, traditional Chinese medicine clinic that provides affordable acupuncture, massage, herbal therapy, and nutritional counseling to Bay Area residents.

For more information, call (415) 252-8711 or visit www.iep-clinic.com.

CUAV volunteer training

Community United Against Violence is offering comprehensive training for people interested in volunteering as crisis line counselors for the agency. No experience is necessary and a stipend is offered for bilingual speakers.

The 40-hour training dates are: Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10; Saturday, April 16, and

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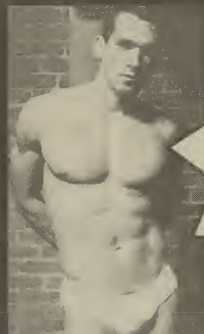


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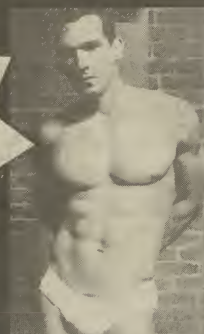
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Cafe in the Castro welcomes queer youth

by Matthew S. Bajko

Anyone under the age of 21 and looking for a place to hang out in the Castro at night has, for years, had nowhere to go. Most queer youth venturing out to the city's gay mecca on a Friday or Saturday night ended up at the Castro Muni station plaza or, before it closed for renovations, the front steps of the recreation center on Collingwood.

Now a 6-month-old cafe is trying to market itself as a gathering place and hangout for those still not old enough to get into the neighborhood's bars. In addition, the owners and manager of Le Bon Gateau, a French patisserie that opened its doors in late September, are offering a cabaret atmosphere to those looking for an a little different environment when they go out to the Castro.

"I have younger friends, one who is 19, and it is hard for us to find a place for us to go and hang out," said manager Eric Brooks, who is gay and 25. A student at the California Culinary Academy, Brooks began managing the cafe in October after moving to San Francisco from Massachusetts.

Since January, the cafe, owned by Nelly and Jean Yves Duperret, has been programming live acts at night, from comedians and magicians to local musicians and flamenco dancers. While it closes up shop at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights, the cafe stays open until midnight on both Friday and Saturday nights.

"The place we fit into the Cas-



Birger Olsen, left, and Anna Laube perform their selections of folk and blues music at Le Bon Gateau on Castro Street.

tro is a little unique. The atmosphere we promote is a relaxed one where you can enjoy your coffee," said Brooks.

With winter a usually dreary time for business, Brooks said he decided to try to program entertainment on various nights to help with sales. Since the closing of Josie's Cabaret in the late 1990s, the Castro has been without a venue for live acts, other than the occasional drag shows at Harvey's.

"There has been a real lack of performance space in the Castro. We found it was something people in the Castro really needed," he said. "We have found it to be very successful for us."

Having friends under 21 himself, Brooks said he has been trying to reach out to those underage

or not interested in hanging out at a bar. Friday nights especially, he said, tend to draw not only a younger crowd but also an older crowd of people who don't necessarily feel welcomed at the bars.

"I think people tend to appreciate it. They are surprised to find we have performers and pleased that there is no cover," he said.

Having entertainers is a switch for the company, which also owns a cafe on Union Street.

"We don't do it in the Union Street store. It is a very different atmosphere," said Brooks.

The Castro location, next door to Superstar Satellite, not only serves coffee drinks and pastries but also sandwiches and salads. Brooks recently hired a new chef

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OPEN FORUM

Spirit didn't move pope on gays

The death of Pope John Paul II last Saturday immediately sent the mainstream media into overdrive. News anchors and reporters, especially on television, couldn't restrain themselves from portraying the pontiff as a "man of the people" who revitalized the Catholic Church. While there were mentions of the pope's controversial, no-holds-barred stands against gays, the ordination of women priests, and birth control, there weren't many gay Catholics (or gay non-Catholics, for that matter) on the airwaves to offer even a small semblance of balance.

That's where we come in.

This pope was a homophobe, despite his progressive stands against President Bush's war on Iraq and the death penalty. His regular statements denouncing us only served to stir up religious conservatives of all faiths, and to further marginalize us as a community. On cue, the Vatican released statements condemning gays and gay families, and often after the pope himself spoke publicly on the matter.

As recently as mid-February, John Paul wrote that same-sex marriages are part of "a new ideology of evil" that is insidiously threatening society. The comments, made in his book, *Memory and Identity*, give the pope a shelf life that not many leaders enjoy.

Longtime local queer activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca summed it up in a piece he quickly wrote over the weekend and posted at sanfranciscosentinel.com. "He could've done what his own church's spiritual leader had done: embraced the outcast with compassion," Avicoli Mecca said. "It is said that Jesus refused to judge the prostitute. According to the church's own teachings, he preached a gospel of love and forgiveness. John Paul II didn't."

For all his home travels and large outdoor Masses, John Paul did not work to bring the church into the 21st century. Some no doubt will argue that that is okay, and the conservatives will drone on about the importance of upholding "tradition." But in this age of secular overload (particularly in the U.S.), it seems to us that faith can

be relevant to our lives. And when it comes to us, many religions leave us at the door, refusing to acknowledge our committed relationships, and even condemn us in death. Just last month in San Diego, a Catholic bishop refused to allow funeral rites for a gay man. While he later apologized and promised to preside at a mass for the man, the bishop's first reaction demonstrates church hierarchy policy—we're not welcome.

And what of the future?

We're not expecting much change. John Paul named all but three of the 117 cardinals who will choose his successor, and presumably share his conservative outlook—one that's been well cultivated during his lengthy, 26-year reign. Gabriel Kahn, writing in the *Wall Street Journal* this week, pointed out another interesting fact: "Most

strikingly, John Paul II halted the momentum for institutional reform that came out of the Second Vatican Council, which, among other changes, strove to create a more approachable and responsive church."

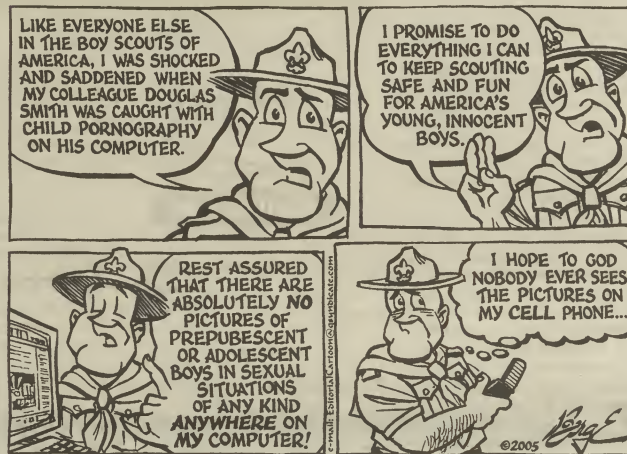
That non-responsiveness was seen most clearly in the Vatican's slowness to grapple with the priest sexual abuse scandal that continues to rock dioceses in this country and others.

The Reverend Michael Ellard, senior pastor at Spirit Connection Metropolitan Community Church in San Jose, and a former Catholic himself, told us that he hopes the efforts to liberalize the Catholic Church will be

reenergized by the change in leadership in the Vatican. "I pray that there will be a new openness in the church, which will lead to healthy change," Ellard said.

We agree. ▼

Editorial



Strengthening hate crime laws

by Jennifer Rakowski

In June 2003, five youths were about to enter a diner on Taraval Street in San Francisco in celebration of making it through high school. Before they entered, three large white males yelling verbal slurs and epithets accosted them. Someone the size of a linebacker attacked the smallest of the youths; the attackers were immediately joined by a large mob of up to 20 people. The youths were beaten and kicked repeatedly, and when they attempted to escape across the street, they were followed and beaten again. The incident ended only when authorities arrived on the scene. Of the up to 20 attackers, only one was ever arrested and charged by the police. It took over one year to bring the perpetrator to trial. And it was only at trial that the identities of some of the attackers were revealed and confirmed. By then, it was too late for the hate crime survivors to seek any meaningful civil recovery for the alleged crimes they had endured.

If this case is as upsetting to you as it was to me, then I encourage you to take action. At Community United Against Violence, we work with hundreds of Bay Area hate violence survivors whose experience contradicts our reputation as a progressive community. Some of those incidents and, more importantly, ideas on how communities can creatively respond to them, will be profiled in Not In Our Town, Northern California: When Hate Happens Here on KQED-TV (channel 9), Friday, April 8, at 9 p.m. While this program does not specifically address the Taraval case, it speaks to several other cases showing the long lasting impact of hate violence on different communities.

The Ralph and Bane acts, the backbone of California's hate crime laws, currently allow hate crime victims to file civil lawsuits against their attackers. A key provision of

these statutes is a mandatory \$25,000 civil penalty imposed upon hate crime perpetrators. However, under California law, any lawsuit seeking this penalty must be brought within one year of the incident. While lawsuits for actual and punitive damages against hate crime perpetrators may be brought up to three years after the incident, such damages often amount to little more than medical bills, lost time from work, and other incidents, making it financially infeasible for victims to file.

This one-year limitation unfairly prohibits some hate crime survivors, like the five youths on Taraval Street, from seeking civil recovery. For many hate crime survivors, bringing a civil action within one year is not advisable or even possible. Criminal proceedings involving hate crimes can often take well over one year. Filing a civil suit may seriously hinder the criminal proceedings. Civil proceedings expose victims to the legal discovery process, allowing perpetrators access to sensitive information regarding their victims that they otherwise may not have. The goal of civil and criminal proceedings may conflict, particularly if settlement discussions in the civil proceeding are initiated. Just as significant, as in the Taraval Street hate crime, the attackers may not be identified until after the one year period has expired.

Other issues of trauma and recovery also hamper a survivor's ability to file within the laws' current framework. In a study of hate crimes survivors, Gregory Herek for the National Institute of Mental Health demonstrated that survivors show significantly greater signs of psychological distress than survivors of non-bias crime. Not only did hate violence survivors show more adverse symptoms, but they also displayed these symptoms for longer periods, often five years

or more. Compared to other respondents, bias-crime survivors manifested higher levels of depression, anxiety, anger, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress. The findings highlight the importance of recognizing hate crime survivors' trauma with assumed civil damages of \$25,000 and ensuring these survivors fair and adequate time to file for relief.

Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) has sponsored a bill, AB378, which will provide hate crime victims with a fair opportunity to seek civil recovery from their attackers by extending the statute of limitation for recovering the \$25,000 civil penalty under the Ralph Act and/or Bane Act from one to three years.

AB378 will bring the time period for seeking a civil penalty under the Ralph and Bane acts in line with the time period for seeking general and punitive damages and in line with the time limitation for filing a hate crime action under Department of Fair Housing and Employment proceedings. The bill is currently before the Assembly's Judiciary Committee.

I want to thank the Asian Law Caucus for its leadership in the hate crime case on Taraval Street. The youth survivors in this case were Asian American, and their courage and commitment to improving circumstances for all hate crime survivors can certainly inspire us all. To show your support for AB378, one can submit letters directly from the Asian Law Caucus site: www.asianlawcaucus.org. Information about the bill is also posted on the Lambda Letters Project site: www.lambdaletters.org. ▼

Jennifer Rakowski is the associate director at Community United Against Violence and a board member of National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

LETTERS

Death of the pope

Amid the mourning and the tearful tributes, let us not forget that this pope was the most powerful and influential homophobe of the last quarter-century.

Carol D. Wise
San Francisco

No 'Pink Brick' for Feinstein

I will take it instead. I agree with the senator that gay marriage is too much, too fast.

When Dianne Feinstein was mayor, she hired many gay men and appointed lesbian activist Jo Daly to the Police Commission. In newsreels and documentaries, she is flanked on her right by a gay man on her staff as she announces that Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk had been murdered.

The parade organizers are one dimensional and focused only on a single comment regarding gay marriage and did not look at the whole person and her history. She deserves more respect from the queer community.

The parade organizers show their ignorance and contempt for queer history by even nominating the senator for the "Pink Brick" award, which has empowered Lou Sheldon and the like in the past. Some of us who lived our history are still alive and remember Feinstein's centrist approach to San Francisco government.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

Healthcare cuts

As a public health physician in San Francisco, I appreciate your coverage of the looming health cuts [*"Health cuts elicit anger from commissioners and advocates," March 31*]. I especially appreciate your contextualization of these proposed cuts as part of a yearly ritual.

I have long been concerned about the effect of this yearly ritual on both patients and staff in the public health system. Every year, patients who rely on various programs are compelled to come to the Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors on bended knee, asking that their particular lifeline be maintained. It is demeaning to patients. For those of us who care for them, it's infuriating to watch.

The result of this madness is that it becomes nearly impossible to plan rationally for a fiscally sustainable public health program. For example, the health department says, quite sensibly, that it is a priority to assist patients who may qualify for federal and state disability benefits. These benefits include medical benefits that help shift some of the burden of care to private providers, and reimburse the health department for some of the costs of publicly provided care. But last year, the administration moved to contract out some of the assistance provided to disabled patients. The net result of this change has been, as many of us predicted, a sharp decrease in the assistance available to disabled patients.

Health Commissioner Jim Illeg wants to lay blame for our public health crisis at the feet of public health workers. In fact, we have made substantial concessions in our pay, benefits, and staffing levels. There is no evidence that public health workers in San Francisco are overpaid. In fact, in my own clinic, we have a serious shortage of eligibility workers (these are the folks who help determine who may be eligible for programs like MediCal and ADAP to pay for their care). We lost one of our most experienced HIV physicians to the private sector this year for a substantial increase in pay. We had a psychiatrist position for HIV patients go unfilled for so long, because the pay wasn't competitive, that the position was finally eliminated last year.

Nonetheless, I and many of my unionized colleagues continue to be willing to agree to changes that will make our system sustainable. This has to include better, more rational management, and a community-wide commitment to public health. The business community in particular, must be willing to step up and contribute its fair share.

Why does this matter to LGBTIQ people? One answer lies in another excellent article in last week's edition of the B.A.R. [*"Harm reduction is huge"*]. Our community is being devastated by the use of crystal meth, the consequences of which include HIV, hepatitis C, and severe, sometimes irreversible psychosis. Our embattled public health system is still among the best in the world at dealing with these issues, and in this time of crisis, we can't afford to lose it.

Paul Quick, M.D.
San Francisco

More people than room at meeting

It is regrettable that Allen Carson was unable to get into the HIV Health Services Planning Council community forum on March 24 due to a capacity crowd [*Mailstrom, March 31*]. However, it is very disturbing that Mr. Carson was misinformed about the council's community forum outreach efforts.

The planning council is committed to hear from consumers of HIV health services in San Francisco as a part of its obligation to set priorities and allocations of shrinking federal funds. The council's Community

Outreach and Advocacy Committee and our staff developed an outreach strategy that combined a press release and a calendar listing that was sent to a variety of community media outlets. CARE-funded agencies were asked to inform their clients about the event. The turnout for this meeting was far more than originally anticipated by the council organizers. We accommodated as many people as possible by adding extra seats and ordering extra food for the participants. Seating was "first come, first served." The council does not engage in practices meant to avoid hearing from community activists and there are often members of the public that regularly attend our monthly meetings that sometimes voice criticism of the Council. The volunteers at the door simply allowed as many to enter as the room could accommodate.

We would like to point out that one of the populations most highly impacted by HIV/AIDS is the homeless. They often have significant service needs requiring a comprehensive and complex array of services in order to stabilize their lives so they can remain in care and adhere to their treatment regimen.

While it would be irresponsible to define the forum attendees as homeless, or by any other labels for that matter, the council is proud of our efforts to hear from the homeless—a group that is often ignored and dismissed in our society. We hope that there are not members of the HIV/AIDS community who think that the voice of homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS is not as important as the voices of other consumers.

There will be additional community events in the coming months to garner input. Mr. Carson is invited to attend any of those meetings. In fact, we would welcome his suggestions on how to plan for future meetings, and invite his participation at regularly scheduled planning council meetings. Those meeting dates, times and locations can be found at www.sf-carecouncil.org or by calling (415) 674-4768.

Randy Allgaier, Anita Booker,
Charles Siron, Co-Chairs
HIV Health Services Planning Council

MHR welcomes LGBT Catholics

I read John Brown and Joe Curtin's guest opinion [*"Gays, Catholicism & pastoral care," March 24*] with great interest. I understand exactly what they are feeling about the Catholic Church because I've felt it, too. I'd probably be among the last to say the church is fabulous and flawless. It's not. What it is God's work in progress institutionally, communally, and personally—and the institution is the least of it. The church is its people, experienced by most of us in our own home parishes. The community we find there, the love, support and care we receive there are the church for us.

A short two blocks from the crossroads of our "hometown"—18th and Castro—you'll find "Your Catholic Parish in the Castro"—Most Holy Redeemer. It's a regular Catholic parish much like the one you grew up in, but without the bingo and the school. It's in full communion with the archdiocese and therefore, with the Vatican as well.

So what's going on at 18th and Diamond? How did over 800 people come to call this place their spiritual home? Well, most of us started off exactly where John and Joe and maybe you the reader are. Yet here we are day after day, week after week, a community of individuals brought together in a personal need in answer to an individual call, loved and accepted in a family of shared faith, supported and cared for by our own. How did we get here? Can LGBTs belong? Is this really the Catholic Church?

Yes, it really is. MHR is 100 percent Catholic and yes LGBTs can belong! We're just not your father's Catholic Church. Our former archbishop called us "a temple of light." Our current archbishop calls us "the face of the church in the 21st century." What kind of face? One that reflects all those wonderful social values that John and Joe talked about—and acts on them. We're home to one of the oldest AIDS service organizations in the country and an AIDS outreach to young adults orphaned by AIDS in Tanzania. We got tired of stepping over sleeping people in rags on the way into church and took responsibility for caring for our homeless and disadvantaged neighbors in the Castro.

As far as Catholic parishes go, we probably have the largest number of LGBT members in the area, but we are not your only Catholic spiritual opportunity. There are other wonderful welcoming Catholic parishes in the city and the North Bay, the East and South Bays and on the Peninsula.

Some of you reading this may be thinking it's all about public relations. Want to bet? We at MHR invite you to check us out, talk to us, listen to our Catholic take on things, and let us listen to you. Been waiting for an apology? You'll get it. We have a program, Reconnecting, that offers some new ways for you to look at your faith, find answers that work for you, reclaim your spirituality and the church that is your birthright. If you're interested, just call our rectory at (415) 863-6259 and ask to be put in touch with one of our Reconnecting volunteers.

Mike Gelpi
San Francisco

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Mike Gelpi
San Francisco

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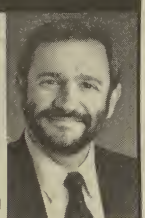
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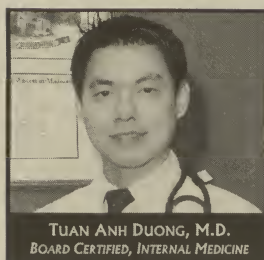
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'Queer' name draws business

by Katharine Holland

After years of calling his yellow pages of East Bay gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses East Bay Voice Directory of Businesses and Services, owner **Merle Yost** decided it was



Merle Yost

time to come out with a more direct title. Newly renamed **Queer Pages** (online at www.eastbayvoice.org and in print), the response was immediate from advertisers and their customers. One Montclair beauty shop reported six new clients in one month and an East Bay Wells Fargo executive reports receiving several calls a

week.

"I was frustrated by the never ending politics and endless alphabet soup — like 'LGBTQI,'" Yost explained. Now that we can (and do) live, shop, and eat out in every neighborhood it is encouraging that even with all of the options, we still gravitate toward supporting our own queer community.

Yost's East Bay Voice provides news, event listings, and other information, primarily covering the East Bay.

For more information on Queer Pages, contact Yost at (510) 271-1814. For those of you who want to advertise in the San Francisco yellow pages for the queer

community, called **Pride Pages**, contact **Joe Engle**, manager of member services, at the Golden Gate Business Association at (415) 865-5545 before April 22 for the 2005-06 issue.

When it started, I don't know, but have you noticed everyone now has a personal coach? Not for fitness, this type of coach is for setting and reaching career, leadership, and life goals. Here are the five guidelines for success from one longtime San Francisco resident and Fortune 1000 coach: 1) reflect more to attain higher emotional intelligence; 2) get good at small talk and develop good net-

working and influencing skills; 3) hire great people and craft an inspiring vision; 4) coach employees 'in the moment' to sustain your team's vision; and 5) develop a global perspective. These words of wisdom are from Dr. **Susan J. Bethanis** in her recently published book, *Leadership Chronicles of a Corporate Sage: Five Keys to Becoming a More Effective Leader* (Dearborn Trade Publishing, \$12.39 on Amazon.com).

Bethanis's name may sound familiar, as she is the president of **Mariposa Leadership Inc.**, formerly coached collegiate volleyball for more

than 10 years, and is active in the community. You can reach her at (415) 861-5900 or sueb@mariposaleadership.com or www.corporatesage.com. If you can't afford to hire a coach, at least go on Amazon or to your local bookstore and buy the book so you're not left behind. Then hit the showers!

Transitions

Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** was on hand to celebrate the opening of the dental practice of Dr. **Markus Watson** at 2370 Market Street at Castro. Formerly, Watson's practice was at Union Street Dental Care in Cow Hollow. Wel-

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Flying for dollars

by Bill Barnes

Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the eighth in a series of such columns.

Mayor Gavin Newsom was in New York City last week raising funds for Brian Ellner, an openly gay man running for Manhattan borough president. Ellner, an attorney with no elected experience, is nonetheless running a strong campaign. Newsom is featured prominently on the campaign Web site, saying, "The Democratic Party needs more leaders like Brian Ellner ... who have the courage to stand up for the values we share." Ellner also benefited from a fashion industry event with renowned designer Diane Von Furstenberg. More info: www.brianelllner.com.

Ellner faces a crowded field of 10 candidates that includes at least one other out candidate - Council member Margarita Lopez, the first lesbian Puerto Rican elected official. Lopez, a lead negotiator on the budget, secured \$1 million in funding to tackle the crystal meth problem, and the first city budget funds ever for NYC's LGBT center. Before serving in public office, Lopez worked in Lower East Side neighborhoods on housing issues, protecting tenant rights, and expanding housing for people with AIDS. Lopez is also waging an effective campaign and has earned the endorsement of lesbian Greenwich Village Assemblywoman Deborah Glick. More info: www.margaritalopez.com.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, City Council member and mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa is racking up the frequent flyer miles raising funds, with San Francisco businessman Clint Reilly hosting a fundraiser at his Seacliff home for Villaraigosa, who is in a runoff next month against Mayor James Hahn. Villaraigosa has assembled a wide range of endorsers in his campaign for mayor, including progressive Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) and former Republican Mayor Richard Riordan.

A bit of a mini-scandal erupted for the Villaraigosa campaign last month when the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Chuck Henry, the director of the Los Angeles County AIDS Office, was soliciting campaign funds from AIDS service contractors. Henry, who has long been an outspoken opponent of San Francisco's federal and state AIDS funding, didn't comment in



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, left, with candidate Brian Ellner in New York City last week.

the *Times* story. According to the report, county officials found a flier for a Villaraigosa event on his taxpayer-funded office computer.

On the fundraising front in San Francisco, the exploratory committee for Supervisor Fiona Ma's Assembly bid reported raising more than \$226,000 by the end of last year. The Sunset District supervisor is facing a tough Democratic primary against Golden Gate Bridge District Director Janet Reilly, wife of Clint.

Other observations

The new Sacramento political magazine *California Conversations* is worth a read, and its inaugural issue put our own state Senator Carole Migden (D) on the cover. The issue provides an inside look at the state appropriations process. Speaking of Migden, she's making California safer for drag queens everywhere with her bill to require cosmetic companies to report using cancer-causing materials. She's getting a lot of support from Marin high schoolers concerned about high rates of breast cancer in our region.

City Treasurer Jose Cisneros, who was appointed by Mayor Newsom to finish Susan Leal's term, is a decent guy who deserves to be elected, but the treasurer's race has yet to register with those I've talked to. With tax day coming up, Cisneros is in the neighborhood stumping for the Earned Income Tax Credit, to ensure working families get the tax benefits to which they're entitled. Cisneros, who is Latino and openly gay, faces a likely challenge from accountant Calvin Louie. Louie, who's been on the ballot in the recall election for governor and also ran unsuccessfully for the community college board, could mount a strong challenge in this low turnout election if the race flies under the radar. Visit www.josescisneros.com to lend

your support to the campaign.

I understand that some community members were alarmed by Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-California) post-election comments, but I agree with Wayne Friday that the Pride Committee nominating her for the "Pink Brick" Award is a little much. Feinstein voted against the discriminatory Federal Marriage Amendment, and called it "one more wedge issue at a very difficult time to be used politically in elections." Instead of attacking those who stand with us some of the time, why not focus our energies on those out to get us all of the time?

Congratulations to Evan Low, who was elected the new president of the Silicon Valley LGBT Democratic club. Low, a 23-year-old educator, ran a strong campaign for Campbell City Council, falling a few votes short of victory. It's good to see emerging LGBT leadership in the South Bay.

Congratulations to young women's advocate Lateefah Simon, who was honored by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and newspaper publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward, recognized by state Senator Carole Migden during the Legislature's recent women's recognition ceremonies in Sacramento. It's good to see our community's legislators recognizing the work of powerful African American women.

Finally, good luck to the San Francisco Giants, who open their season this week against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Make sure to get your tickets early for LGBT Night Out on May 9 against the Pittsburgh Pirates at www.sfgiants.com. Go Giants! ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com.

come news, said Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who convened a hearing on issues affecting queer youth last summer.

"That is great, that is awesome," Dufty said after hearing about the cafe's plans. "My first days as supervisor many young people told me there was no place to go in the Castro and that everything was about alcohol and being over 21. It is wonderful this business has taken an initiative to create a welcoming space to young people."

While the cafe has applied for a liquor license so it can offer wines, Brooks is confident the cafe can still be a welcoming spot for

youth.

"I don't foresee it being an issue," he said. "We want to maintain the atmosphere of a coffee-house where people can have a conversation over a glass of wine. This is not going to be a place where people come to drink excessively." ▼

Every other Wednesday, Le Bon Gateau presents flamenco dancers between 7 and 9 p.m., on Fridays between 8 and 10 p.m. there is live music and on Sundays at 8 p.m. magician David Miller performs. The cafe is located at 476 Castro Street.

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Cafe in Castro

◀ page 5

to mix up the cafe's recipes and will be adding new soups to the menu.

On a recent rainy Friday night, the cafe's couches and tables were packed with people talking over espresso drinks as musicians performed in front of the window overlooking Castro Street. While the crowd was a bit older that evening, Brooks said he is planning to reach out to local LGBT youth service providers to plan events.

Le Bon Gateau's efforts to offer a spot for younger people is wel-



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BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

'Queering' Terri Schiavo

by Paula Martinac

There's something very queer about the story of Terri Schiavo. I don't mean "queer" as in odd or strange, but as in familiar to gay people. The personal drama of the Schiavos is something many lesbians and gay men have worried about and taken precautions against in order to avoid unwanted interference in their relationships.

Relatively few Americans — something like 15 percent — currently have a living will in place and have designated a medical power of attorney, or health-care proxy. My guess (and hope) is that a large number of those who have these important documents on hand are lesbians or gay men, who, in lieu of legal marriage, have a clear need for them.

Indeed, the Schiavos' tragedy sent me rushing to our fireproof lockbox to double-check that the legal papers my partner and I had drawn up years ago — at the moment we could finally afford them — included both living wills and powers of attorney. And there they were, prepared by a smart and thorough lesbian attorney who counseled us on how to protect our "illegal" relationship. In recommending that we draft more than just our wills, our lawyer had two things in mind: Sharon Kowalski and AIDS.

Some of my readers have probably forgotten — or maybe never even heard — Kowalski's name, but her story loomed large for our community in the mid-1980s. Disabled when her car was struck by a drunk driver, Kowalski was placed in a nursing home by her gay-phobic father, who cruelly denied her lover, Karen Thompson, the right to visit her. Even though Kowalski typed out her wish that she be cared for in her own home by Thompson, the courts sided with her family of origin. It took three years for Thompson to win paltry visitation rights, and an additional three to finally gain legal

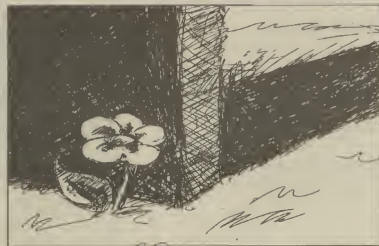
guardianship of her partner and bring her home. The couple's drama became a cause celebre in our community and set many lesbian and gay attorneys on the path of protecting our relationships.

At the same time that Kowalski's story was being played out in the courts, AIDS was ravaging our community. A lot of gay men found themselves in situations similar to Thompson's, where they were denied access to their partners in the hospital or not permitted to make critical health-care decisions for them. Straight parents jumped in to make medical and legal judgments that violated their gay

wishes — and often reduced longtime partners to strangers. By the early 1990s, then, the ritual of "getting your paperwork done" had become standard in our community.

Now Terri Schiavo's story has likewise sent straight Americans to their lawyers' offices — or, for those who can't afford attorneys' fees, to Staples or Office Depot to purchase legal software. In fact, all the major public opinion polls have established that most Americans — and, amazingly, the numbers cut across party lines — think Michael Schiavo is correct to implement what he understands to be his wife's wishes, and further believe that the state should stay out of their business.

The fact is, many heterosexual couples have probably never considered themselves vulnerable in this way. After all, marriage is supposed to cover a couple's legal bases. But the Schiavos' case has demonstrated that, given human inconsistency and unpredictability, parents who were once approving or tolerant of an adult child's spouse can turn on a dime when critical health matters are concerned.



Christine Smith

In a sad yet meaningful way, then, one couple's tragic story has presented all Americans with a chance to reflect on what we would want if, like Terri Schiavo, doctors determined we were beyond hope of recovery. And in addition, the story gives lesbians and gay men an opening to talk to family members — parents, in particular — about a difficult topic: our own desires about life-and-death medical decisions, and our concerns that our relationships be honored.

If you already have a living will and medical power of attorney, good for you — now would be a perfect time to take those papers out of the lockbox and discuss them with your family of origin. Unless they're completely unreasonable or religious fundamentalists (or both), most parents would probably honor their adult children's wishes, even if they don't personally agree with them.

And if you don't have this vital paperwork yet, it's definitely time to get it. Same-sex couples are still more vulnerable than straight married couples in these matters, by virtue of the fact that our relationships aren't legally recognized in most states. But even if you're not partnered, you should consider whom you want to make vital decisions (a sibling, close friend, or ex-lover, maybe, if not a parent) when you can no longer make them yourself. ▼

Paula Martinac is a playwright, novelist, author of nonfiction books, and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

TIC defeated

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signs at the committee hearing, said that allowing these TICs to convert to condominiums would fuel evictions by creating an expectation of occasional "free rides" to TICs waiting to convert to condominiums. TIC buildings have long been considered by housing activists to be a loophole in the condominium conversion law responsible for widespread tenant evictions by speculators looking to turn a profit. Real estate investors can invoke the Ellis Act to empty an apartment of its renters and sell the individual units.

Supporters countered that the bill only applied to owner-occupied TICs and would not result in any new evictions. Many TIC owners have been waiting to convert to condominiums for seven years, they said, with the future of their homes and security in jeopardy.

But LGBT opponents of the bill such as Michael Goldstein, immediate past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, and Tommi Avicoli Mecca, a pro-

gressive activist, pointed out that most TICs are the result of evictions. Avicoli Mecca rattled off a list of recently evicted and displaced queer tenants whose former homes would have been granted instant condominium status under the proposal.

Before the vote, Duffy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he intended to honor his promise that the bill was a one-time action meant to provide relief for those struggling to remain in San Francisco.

"I made a commitment at the hearing that if I'm given a second term I have no intention of proposing again to grandfather in TICs," said Duffy. "It just seems that the lottery has become totally unwieldy, with over 1,500 people in it — people who have been trying for several years to progress from a TIC to a condominium. It's compelling, when I meet a yoga instructor who is 53 years old, lives at 14th and Castro, has no retirement, and this is her long-term security and her ability to stay in San Francisco, and she has been in the lottery for seven years."

Duffy added that he saw his legislation as "part of the overall framework" to address the city's

housing crisis, noting that he voted to add smaller units to the condominium lottery if they had a history of bad evictions; intends to address senior housing needs through projects like Open House; and plans to meet with developers soon to address why so many of the city-approved affordable housing developments have never been built.

After the bill's defeat, its supporters vowed to continue their fight.

"We're very disappointed. What this means is that TIC owners and renters who want to be homeowners some day need to get political and let this board know there will be a political price," said Mike Sullivan, board chair of the quality of life group Plan C. "This is a continuation of a number of votes this board has made on home ownership opportunities. This bill was the most modest thing we could think of to bring before the board and it failed by the same vote all the other measures have failed by. ... This may mean we need to go to the ballot on some things, and we're going to try to figure out our next steps now." ▼

HISTORY LESSON

Who was John Maynard Keynes?

by Liz Highleyman

April 21, 1946 (59 years ago this month): British economist John Maynard Keynes dies in Sussex, England.

Gay men are well known for their prominence in creative fields such as literature and the arts, but one of the most influential economists of all times, John Maynard Keynes, also had sexual relationships with men.

Keynes was born June 5, 1883, in Cambridge, England, where his father was a lecturer on political economy and his mother was a social reformer and the first woman mayor of the town. Though born into the middle class, Keynes attended Eton and later King's College at Cambridge, with scholarships he earned based on his academic achievement.

Soon after his arrival at the college, Keynes was invited to join the Apostles, an elite secret society. Among his fellow members were Lytton Strachey, Clive Bell, and Leonard Woolf. "We repudiated entirely customary morals, conventions, and traditional wisdom," Keynes later recalled. "We were, in the strict sense of the term, immoralists."

While his studies focused on mathematics, Keynes was always fond of art and literature, and he preferred to socialize in bohemian circles. He, Strachey, Bell, and

Woolf – along with the latter two men's wives, sisters Vanessa and Virginia Stephen – became the nucleus of the Bloomsbury group, which expanded to include several prominent writers and artists, among them novelist E.M. Forster and painters Dora Carrington and Duncan Grant.

Several members of the group were homosexual or bisexual – leading Virginia Woolf to dub them the "Society of Buggers" – and the shifting liaisons among them became legendary. In 1908, Keynes began a relationship with Grant, who had recently ended an affair with Strachey. Keynes and Grant broke up after several years, but remained close friends. An avid collector and cataloguer, Keynes kept meticulous lists of his sexual encounters with men, both regular partners and casual pick-ups.

After his graduation, Keynes moved to London and joined the British civil service, but he soon found the work tedious. He accepted a position teaching economics at Cambridge, and at age 28 he was named editor of the prestigious *Economic Journal*. With the outbreak of World War I, he joined the Treasury Office, where he managed overseas financing (much to the chagrin of his pacifist Bloomsbury associates).

In 1918, Keynes was chosen as a delegate to the conference that hammered out the Versailles Treaty. Strongly opposed to the



Economist John Maynard Keynes

heavy reparations levied against Germany – which he accurately predicted would lead to political instability – he resigned in protest and wrote a critical book, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919), which garnered him international renown.

After the war, Keynes resumed teaching at Cambridge. His shrewd investments brought him wealth in addition to fame. In 1925, he married Lydia Lopokova, a Russian ballerina 11 years his junior, much to the surprise of his bohemian friends who believed he was homosexual. Keynes thereafter apparently ceased having affairs with men – at least publicly – and the couple remained married until his death.

Between the world wars, the international economy entered a deep depression. Keynes devised a theory – set forth in *The General*

Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) – that during economic downturns, governments should embrace deficit spending and create public works programs to bolster demand and keep unemployment in check. While the laissez-faire market might balance supply and demand in the long run, he suggested, it could not prevent social misery in the present. His ideas laid the foundation for the New Deal in the United States and the welfare states of Western Europe. But, despite a flirtation with Bolshevism as a young man, he was not a socialist. In naming him one of *Time* magazine's 100 most important people of the 20th century, economist Robert Reich wrote that Keynes "probably saved capitalism from itself."

Keynes's health had begun to deteriorate in his mid-50s, but he nevertheless allowed himself to be pressed back into government service, helping to design the new postwar financial institutions – the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank – that he hoped would ensure global economic stability and prosperity. After an exhausting round of travel to conferences, he suffered a heart attack and died at his home in Sussex in April 1946.

Although he was married to a woman for half his adult life, much has been made of how Keynes's homosexuality influenced his economic theories. Gay author Jeffrey Escoffier suggests that Keynes's outsider sexuality made him more sympathetic to

the plight of the disadvantaged and more inclined to embrace unconventional ideas. On the other hand, conservative critics argue that because homosexuals typically do not have children, they are more likely to favor short-term profligacy over long-term savings. Indeed, Keynes contended that saving rather than spending was a threat to the economy, and that money was only valuable because it enabled one to enjoy life. "[T]his long run is a misleading guide to current affairs," he once famously quipped. "In the long run, we are all dead." ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Escoffier, Jeffrey. 1994. *John Maynard Keynes* (Chelsea House, *Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians* series).

Skidelsky, Robert. 1994, 1995, 2002. *John Maynard Keynes: Hopes Betrayed, 1883-1920; John Maynard Keynes: The Economist as Saviour, 1920-1937; John Maynard Keynes: Fighting for Freedom, 1937-1946* (Penguin).

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Out with a bang

by Jane Warner

Sparky's Restaurant, 242 Church, March 31, 2:05 a.m.: While serving the after-hours bar crowd, the manager of Sparky's heard a loud crash coming from the front of the restaurant. When he went to investigate, he saw the diner's front window had been smashed. Several witnesses pointed to a man walking away from the restaurant southbound on Church Street. The manager followed the suspect and yelled for him to stop, but the alleged vandal ignored the manager and kept walking. Quickening his pace, the manager caught up to him and asked, "Why did you break the window?" "You guys didn't let me use the fucking bathroom." The man angrily replied, "Now leave me alone." Afraid for his safety, the manager returned to the restaurant. The suspect — described as a white male, 40-42 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 160 pounds with blond hair tied back into a ponytail,

wearing a gray sweatshirt and denim shorts — was last seen walking eastbound on 15th Street.

Say cheese

Gold's Gym parking lot, 2301 Market, March 22, 11 a.m.: After a workout, a man returned to his car in the gym's parking lot to discover the rear passenger window of his Dodge Neon smashed and over a \$1,000 worth of CDs stolen. When police arrived to take a report, the staff at Gold's informed them that the garage's surveillance cameras caught the incident on tape. Officers reviewed the footage and observed a Dodge Caravan drive into the garage and park next to the victim's car. A white male got out of the passenger side and approached the Dodge Neon.

The actual break-in took place out of range of the cameras, but a short time later the same white male was seen getting back into the Caravan, this time holding a large bag. As the van left the driveway, the tape also recorded the vehicle's license plate. Officers

took a report and forwarded the information to investigators.

Sticky fingers

Fronting Sweet Inspirations, 2239 Market, March 30, 4:14 p.m.: Two officers on foot patrol near Sweet Inspirations observed a man holding a silver mountain bike. As they approached him, the man suddenly dropped the bike and walked in the opposite direction. A passing citizen pointed to the fleeing suspect and yelled, "Hey, that guy just tried to steal that bike."

The officers chased after the suspect and detained him. Without being asked, the suspect informed the officers, "They're just bolt cutters," referring to what was inside a bag he was holding. The officers went back to where the bike was and saw that a chain wrapped around a nearby parking meter had been cut.

The 40-year-old suspect was arrested for attempted bicycle theft, possession of burglary tools and probation violation. ▼

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by Tyson Gillfillan

Following last week's guilty plea to federal child pornography charges by a former high-ranking Boy Scouts official, Petaluma-based advocacy organization, Scouting For All, has called for the entire national leadership of the Boy Scouts of America to be replaced.

"The current leadership of the BSA has desecrated the organization, and the Scout oath and law through discrimination, corruption, deceit, and fraud," said Scouting For All President Scott Cozza.

Douglas Smith Jr., 61, pleaded guilty last week to one count of receipt and distribution of child pornography in Austin, Texas. He faces up to 20 years in federal prison for using the Internet to receive and distribute images of children engaging in sex acts and had worked for the BSA for 39 years. In 2002 he led the organization's Youth Protection Task Force, a committee that worked to shield youth from sexual abuse.

Following Smith's arrest, a spokesman for the Boy Scouts said the organization was "shocked and dismayed," categorized the situation as "the action of one individual," and insisted that Smith

did not work directly with children. Critics disagree.

"They're completely lying," said Cozza. "It's impossible to be an adult leader involved in scouting and have no interaction with children." A posting on the Scouting For All online message board asserts that in 1999 Smith accompanied five Scouts to a congressional medal ceremony in Washington, D.C. The BSA has also admitted that Smith ran a suburban Chicago scout council in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Citing the Smith scandal, as well as federal investigations into several BSA councils for allegedly fraudulently inflating their membership numbers in order to secure more funding from sources such as the United Way, Cozza compared Scouting For All's request for a change in national leadership to stockholders asking a corporation's directors to step down after an accounting scandal. "Only this is about morals, not money," said Cozza.

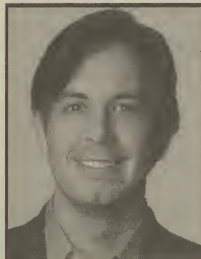
According to Cozza, many scout groups tell donors that they don't discriminate in order to secure funding, but when contacted by Scouting For All have admitted that they follow the national policy of ejecting gays and atheists. He said his group recently sent a compromise resolution to the national organization, requesting that

the BSA's official stance become nondiscriminatory while allowing individual units with religious ties to restrict their own membership.

"Although not perfect," said Cozza, "we feel this compromise allows each of us to be respectful of conflicting beliefs, while providing opportunities for everyone to take part in the organization." The group is undertaking several national and regional efforts across the country to heal the damage they say the BSA's discrimination has caused.

Scouting For All was established in 1997 by Cozza's then-12-year-old son, Steven Cozza, a scout who was opposed to the BSA's discrimination of homosexuals and atheists. The group says that the values espoused by the Scout oath and law leave no room for discrimination, and they hope to be able to "save scouting" by making it more inclusive.

Given the national organization's track record of consistently ignoring Scouting For All's protests and petitions, Scott Cozza does not think that the national leadership of the BSA will actually step down. However, as a believer in the benefits of scouting, he hopes that the organization will one day live up to its own espoused values, and its discriminatory practices, and regain its integrity. ▼



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Battles remain in lesbian's UPS lawsuit

by Zak Szymanski

The plaintiff in a recent successful sexual harassment lawsuit against United Parcel Service said she intends to pursue the matter further by appealing an earlier ruling that prohibited her from suing on the grounds of sex discrimination and wrongful termination. UPS, meanwhile, said it intends to appeal the recent judgment that found that the company fostered a hostile work environment.

East Bay resident and openly lesbian Kathy Hoskins, 41, was awarded \$63,000 by a San Francisco Superior Court jury last month for what she alleged was persistent harassment and abuse based upon her gender nonconformity.

The 14-year employee of UPS — who delivered packages for the San Bruno facility from 1988 until 2003 — alleged that her supervisors repeatedly told her to look more feminine and wear tighter fitting uniforms, while male employees were allowed to alter their uniforms or wear a variety of sizes that fit their taste.

"I fit in with one of the guys," Hoskins told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview this week.

Court records state that Hoskins was one of only four women out of 56 workers that worked at the facility, and that the supervisor primarily responsible for the harassment did not hire a woman in his five years in that position.

"I felt very strongly that they



Plaintiff Kathy Hoskins

hired me to deliver packages, not to care about what I wore. And I wore the uniform. I was in compliance. I ordered my shorts from the UPS order form just like

that," she laughed.

Two former female co-workers testified on her behalf about the hostile work environment, while another who testified for UPS noted that her own tighter fitting uniform was worn that way because it was comfortable for her, said Hoskins.

"But why is it okay for her to wear what's comfortable for her, but not okay for me?" said Hoskins. "No customers ever complained about my appearance. I took pride in my uniform."

In February 2003, Hoskins was terminated for allegedly taking extra free time during her route. Hoskins countered that she had been under-dispatched, finishing her route early and rolling it into a lunch hour as did other employees in similar situations. On the day she was fired, she said, she had stopped in at her mother's house to call her doctor about a back injury.



Attorney Waukeen McCoy

ment didn't fit the crime, and that's why I knew the firing was about something else."

In the original case, Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay granted

"I felt very strongly that they hired me to deliver packages, not to care about what I wore. And I wore the uniform. I was in compliance. I ordered my shorts from the UPS order form just like everybody else."

everybody else," said Hoskins, who added that her supervisor would wave a UPS poster in her face and ask her why she didn't look like the stereotypically feminine woman depicted in the advertisement.

"I'm not ever going to look like

"They sent somebody from loss prevention to surveil me. I had never been disciplined or written up or warned or anything. After 14 years, I was surveilled for three days, and during one of those days I took an extra 30 minutes," said Hoskins. "The punish-

a motion for summary judgment from UPS and ruled that Hoskins did not have enough evidence of sex discrimination and wrongful termination to present to the jury. But both Hoskins and her attorney, Waukeen McCoy, said they believe that the jury's recent rul-

ing is solid proof of sex discrimination and wrongful termination.

"He denied that a jury could hear the case for sex discrimination, which precluded us from getting damages on wrongful termination, so the jury could only give her money for the hostile work environment during the time she worked and not anything after," McCoy told the *B.A.R.* "He was dead wrong, though, because the jury came back and said the way she was treated was because she was female. We're doing research right now and plan to position ourselves for an appeal in April."

For Hoskins, what matters is the message sent, not the money.

"I felt something in my heart that I had been done wrong. Even if I got five dollars, I stood up to UPS and I won," said Hoskins. "I was there for 14 years and I really loved that job. It's hard for me to believe in 2005 that people judge you on the way you look and not your performance."

Heather Robinson, a spokeswoman for UPS, told the *B.A.R.* that the company "disagrees with the court's ruling and intends to appeal" the recent decision.

"UPS maintains that Ms. Hoskins was treated fairly while she was employed and terminated properly after an investigation; she had a pattern of taking excessive personal time off during work hours," said Robinson, who added, "UPS is one of most diverse work forces of any company in the nation and is a recognized leader in hiring and promoting minorities." ▼

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New Zealand has integrated gay scene



A cable car overlooks the city of Wellington, in gay friendly New Zealand.

by Ed Walsh

Okay. I'll admit it. New Zealand was never at the top of my places to see list. But a good friend went recently and couldn't stop talking about it. So I looked into visiting and finally arrived last month for a 10-day whirlwind tour.

New Zealand may never achieve the party-central status of its massive neighbor, Australia, but what it lacks in gay venues it more than makes up in spectacular scenery, climate and a distinctively different gay and lesbian scene.

What's unique about the gay and lesbian community in New Zealand? I first put that question to Peter Graczer, a bartender at Hydrant, Auckland's popular neighborhood gay bar.

"Here, read my column," he responded.

In his spare time, Graczer writes for *Express*, New Zealand's version of the *Bay Area Reporter*. As he explained in the March 9

edition, some gay and lesbian tourists to Auckland — New Zealand's largest city — are quick to point out the lack of the numerous gay venues found in other cities such as Sydney and San Francisco.

"For all the lack of thrills, we instead enjoy an enviable position as citizens," Graczer wrote. "Yes, I'll admit it doesn't have the same sell as cheap sex and drugs, but why aren't we a little prouder about this? In Australia, a Holy Grail of hedonism to many gay New Zealanders, the state has actively moved to curtail or preclude adoption and marriage for same-sex couples. In the USA, the situation is even more dire, with reform that will permanently entrench a lower civil status for gay men and lesbians."

Graczer's opinion was echoed by dozens of gay men and lesbians, including the two openly gay members of Parliament with whom I spoke during my tour. Gays and lesbians are integrated into the fabric of the country's population of nearly 3.5 million. It's not uncommon to see groups of gays and lesbians gathering at predominately straight clubs.

One pleasant surprise for panhandling-weary San Franciscans: you will be hard-pressed to see any beggars or street encampments anywhere in the country. Auckland Police spokeswoman Noreen Hegarty told me that in the rare occasions that the department gets a report about panhandling, beggars can be cited for a number of violations, including vagrancy. Hegarty added that Auckland has homeless people but they generally live out of sight of the street. A recent article in the *New Zealand Herald* mentioned that there may be as many as 150 homeless people living in downtown Auckland.

Auckland

Auckland is the stopping off point for most people who visit New Zealand. The Auckland area is home to 1.1 million people, about a third of the population of New Zealand. Auckland has sometimes been referred to as a "mini-Los Angeles." By the way, Wellington, the country's capital, is sometimes called its "mini-San Francisco."

Unlike Los Angeles, Auckland is very walkable and is best explored on foot, especially since they drive on the left side of the road in New Zealand.

The city's crown jewel is its Sky Tower, the tallest structure in the Southern Hemisphere. It's a great landmark that will help you get your bearings if you get lost. The Link bus is a great way to get around to see all the wonderful sites in Auckland. The fare is only \$1.20 NZ, a little less than a dollar in U.S. currency. You can take it to Auckland's wharf to take a number of harbor cruises. I took the bus to the Pride of Auckland cruise on my first day for a spectacular lay of the land and sea.

The bus will also take you to the Auckland War Memorial Museum for some great exhibitions from its native inhabitants, the Maori Indians. Its major current exhibit showcasing Maori woven art, "The Eternal Thread," is coming to San Francisco. It will be headlining at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts during the first week of August. The exhibit will likely include a number of exhibits on New Zealand in general.

next page ►

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TRAVEL

Progressive civil union law in New Zealand

by Ed Walsh

New Zealand will hit a gay rights milestone this month. On April 26, the country's new civil union law will go into effect, granting gay couples all the rights afforded to married heterosexual couples. In a recent interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Chris Carter, New Zealand's first openly gay elected Member of Parliament, boasted that the law is the strongest piece of gay rights

legislation enacted by any country in the Southern Hemisphere.

Carter was elected as one of the 120 members of Parliament in 1993. He told the *B.A.R.* that the civil unions law is testament to the progressive attitude toward gays and lesbians that is pervasive throughout the country.

"It isn't even a talking point anymore," Carter said of the matter-of-fact way that most New Zealanders have accepted same-sex couples.

He added that New Zealand

has long had a history of tolerance and noted that his country gave women the vote in 1893, long before other democracies. The U.S. gave women the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Carter said he is now one of three "rainbow members" of Parliament, along with openly gay Tim Barnett, and Georgina Beyer, a transgender woman.

In an interview with the *B.A.R.* that was conducted last month at an annual gay festival in Well-

ington, New Zealand's capital, Barnett said that by not using the word "marriage" supporters were able to get the civil union legislation passed.

"We've managed to keep the marriage lobby from being upset," he explained.

The new rights afforded gay couples will include full benefits for all national laws, including the right for a foreigner to join in a civil union with a New Zealander and for the foreigner to legally immigrate to New Zealand. Carter said he considers California to be America's gateway to New Zealand because it is usually the stop travelers make before heading south to his country. He added that the civil union law would soon have a living example in California. New Zealand's consul general for the Western United States, Rob Taylor, is openly gay and is expected to join in civil union with his longtime partner, Don Badman. Taylor told the *B.A.R.* that he plans on tying the knot in civil union with Badman the next time he returns to New Zealand.



Member of Parliament Chris Carter

Why was New Zealand able to pass national civil union legislation before the U.S.?

Both Carter and Barnett agreed that in large part it was because although New Zealand is predominately a Christian country, Christian fundamentalists have always been a small minority. "They are a source of ridicule," explained Carter. ▼

New Zealand

◀ previous page

As mentioned, the gay scene in New Zealand is integrated in the mainstream throughout the city. That said, there are a number of gay and lesbian venues. The Hydrant bar, at 1 Williamson Avenue, is on the site of a former firehouse. It draws a small neighborhood crowd during the week and is packed on weekends. Urge is popular with the leather crowd and is located at 382-386 Karangahape Road (K-Road). The Flesh Nightclub draws a big weekend dance crowd. Incidentally, Flesh was firebombed late last year, but, fortunately, there were no injuries. No one was ever arrested and the word on the street is that the club's orientation had nothing to do with the crime. Flesh is temporarily operating out of the Strand Hotel, at the end of Parnell Road.

Auckland's most popular gay friendly restaurant is SPQR. It's located at 150 Ponsonby Road, a short walk from Hydrant, in the Ponsonby neighborhood. The café-laden Ponsonby is probably Auckland's gayest section, although there is no definable gay neighborhood.

Auckland is also home to a popular gay bathhouse, the Centurion, and at least three "cruise clubs," the term for sex clubs.

Some of the more popular gay-welcoming accommodations include Moana Vista Bed & Breakfast in the upscale Herne Bay neighborhood, a short walk to Ponsonby Road. It's owned by a young gay couple. The Hastings House is another popular B&B and is owned by a gay man. For those on a budget, Brown Kiwi Travelers Hostel, in the Ponsonby neighborhood, is a good choice. A private room there will run you about \$40. Popular accommodations for women, but not limited to women, include The Big Blue House and the Women's Room.

Wellington

Often called the San Francisco of New Zealand, Wellington is the

southern end of the North Island and is about an eight-hour drive south of Auckland. It's an easy and inexpensive one-hour flight on Air New Zealand. I took a number of flights between New Zealand's cities and the only time I had to go through a metal detector or security screening was on the longest intercity flight between Queenstown and Auckland.

As the country's capital city, Wellington is home to New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa. Even if you're not into mu-

seums, you'll be hard-pressed not to find something inside that won't fascinate or entertain you there. Admission is free and its modern history department includes a section that documents the struggle for gay rights in New Zealand.

The only gay club in Wellington is Pound/Sovereign on Dixon Street near Cuba Street. The club is mostly gay men but draws many lesbians as well. It's on the second floor of a shopping complex in a popular

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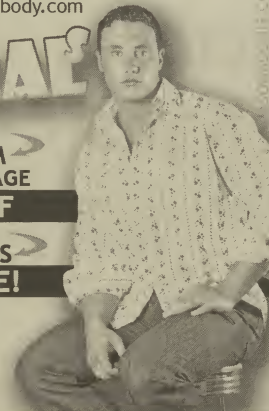
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Pope's death

◀ page 1

neers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin and Dignity members Veronica Abrickis and Jack Fahy were honored.

"Dignity/SF shares in the grief of the passing of Pope John Paul II with the whole world and with the greater Catholic Church in particular," co-chairs Gino Ramos and Cleo Fast stated.

"It is always difficult to lose someone you've known as a church pastoral leader, especially someone who has served as long as this pope did," Ramos said. "But on the other hand, this event brings us a kind of hope for the future, one in which the whole Body of Christ, the universal church (including its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members) may be attended to and nurtured."

Newsom, who did not attend the Dignity event, issued a statement expressing his sorrow and sympathy over the pope's death. The mayor, who is Catholic, gave the authority to city officials last year to issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples. The move, which was later halted by the courts, did not sit well with local Catholic leaders, yet Newsom remained committed to his decision and supports same-sex marriage.

"After his 26 years of leadership at the Roman Catholic Church, and extensive travels across the globe promoting peace, the pope has earned a level of universal recognition and respect unlike any other," Newsom stated.

Ramos and Fast said they clearly remember the pope issuing his strong statements against the ordination of women and gay marriage. In other areas, however, John Paul was a strong advocate of social justice; he opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq and advocated for the poor. He also opposed the death penalty.

Joe Murray, with the Rainbow Sash Movement, another organization of gay Catholics, also issued a statement and said the pope was a contradiction.

"We will remember him as the traveling pope, who reached out to diverse peoples and religions. He has brought the Jewish-Catholic dialogue process further than any previous pope. We will also remember the part he played in the crumbling of the Soviet Empire," Murray stated.

However, Murray added "there are a catalogue of woes that John Paul II leaves behind, including defections and apathy among younger Catholics, falling Mass attendance across the board, an



Dignity/SF Co-chair Gino Ramos

aging priesthood that seems to be self-destructing ..."

Murray also echoed others in the pope's failure to reach out to the LGBT community.

"He did not show the same love and respect for individual gay and lesbian people," Murray said. "With all his journeys, this was the one journey he could not, or would not take."

San Francisco gay activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca was more blunt. "John Paul II was not a man of the people," Avicoli Mecca wrote in an essay that was published Sunday on sanfranciscosentinel.com. "Unless you remove queers from the definition of people. John Paul II considered queers as immoral and 'innately sinful.' Under his watch, his church continued instilling young people with homophobia and young queers with self-hatred. How well I remember that homophobia and self-hatred from my 12 years in Catholic school."

Avicoli Mecca went on to criticize mainstream media coverage of the pope's death, which he labeled a "love fest."

Thom Lynch, executive director of the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco, was especially critical of the church's stance on condoms under the pope's tenure.

"It's a tragedy that the Catholic Church is not dealing with the issue of condoms, as it affects HIV transmission," Lynch told the B.A.R., "especially with the church's growth in Africa and the impact [condoms] could have."

Lynch said the pope was "no friend to the gay community." The pope's failures, Lynch said, include the church's position on condoms, his calling gay people "evil" in a recent book, the subjugation of women, and the Vatican's slow response to the sexual abuse scandal in U.S. Catholic churches.

Lynch, however, said the pope did some good things during his years in power. John Paul went to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and



Dignity/SF Co-chair Cleo Fast

issued some apologies for past actions of the church. "But he was better at apologizing for things hundreds of years ago than more recent things," Lynch added.

The future

What does the future hold for the Catholic Church? Many gays don't see much chance for change under a new pope. John Paul appointed most of the cardinals who will soon meet in secret to decide on his successor, and many of them share the conservative ideology of the late pope.

"I think it is doubtful that we're going to see a pope who has a clearly pro-LGBT or pro-feminist stance at the time he is chosen," MCC's Ellard said. "My hope is that we'll get a pope who doesn't have any clear position on these subjects, but who has an open mind, a passion for justice, and a willingness to listen."

"I know it is almost impossible to think that the Catholic Church will have a change of heart in issues of gay marriage and ordination of women," said Dignity's Ramos, "but I would like to hope that a miracle can still happen with the selection of the new pontiff."

Murray said this is a "bittersweet moment" for many gay and lesbian Catholics. "We mourn a lost opportunity of pastoral outreach from John Paul II, we also mourn his death. Going forward, we look in hope to a new pope who may be willing to make a pastoral journey to the gay and lesbian community that Pope John Paul II was unable to make."

Ellard pointed to an example of someone changing his mind. "Oscar Romero, the famed crusader for justice in El Salvador, was not on the side of the poor and oppressed when he became archbishop. But he was willing to listen, and he eventually became an incredibly passionate advocate for justice and social change. My hope is that the same thing will happen with this next pope." ▼

Sharing laughs at 'Sporting Life'

The GLBT Historical Society held its opening reception for its current exhibit, *Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today* Saturday, April 2. On hand, from left, were Community Softball League founder Jack "Irene" McGowan, historical society Executive Director Terence Kissack, guest curator (and Bay Area Reporter sports columnist) Jim Provenzano, and accomplished track and field athlete Reggie Snowden. The exhibit runs through the end of the year at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300 (between New Montgomery and Third streets) in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 777-5555.

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PWA recalls 1987 meeting with pope

by Ed Walsh

It was just a few seconds but it would profoundly affect the rest of Jim Folsom's life.

The date was September 17, 1987. The place was San Francisco's Mission Dolores Church, on the outskirts of the Castro. Folsom and his partner of 27 years, Jim Britt, learned four years earlier that they were HIV-positive. Folsom was still healthy but Britt developed full-blown AIDS over that summer.

Britt was receiving emotional and spiritual help by the Castro's Most Holy Redeemer Parish. Through their connection with the parish, the couple was invited to attend an appearance by Pope John Paul II at Mission Dolores. Britt was one of more than 50 people with AIDS in attendance, along with more than three-dozen of their loved ones. About 800 people were packed into the church.

This week, as the world marked the death of Pope John Paul II, Folsom vividly recalled the scene as the pontiff walked among the pews in Mission Dolores.

"We were seated in a pew, on an aisle," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "As the pope came down the aisle, his attention was fixed on a woman, her husband, and a young boy they were holding. And when he came by us, I said to him, 'Holy Father, will you bless my friend? He is very sick.'"

"And he acted like he didn't hear me. He didn't react. And I was pretty disappointed, momentarily. Then he stopped. He came back and he looked at my partner and put his hand on his forehead and he said 'God loves you as I do.' And he took both of our hands and gave us a big smile. Then he went up to the little boy and picked him up and held him."

That little boy, 4-year-old Brendan O'Rourke, had contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion. The photographs of the pope hugging the boy quickly became one of the images that are often repeated as an example of the pope's compassion. O'Rourke lost his battle with AIDS in 1990, just short of his 8th birthday.

Although the media latched on to the photograph of the pope with O'Rourke, Folsom will forever cherish the photograph of himself with Britt and the pope.

Half out of the photo's frame, Britt's sallow complexion betrayed his struggle with the disease.

"It was a boost for him," Folsom said. "It helped with his dying process. He was slowly becoming stronger and more accepting and I think that the pope's visit was the shot that he needed."

"He began to rebound considerably after that. And I must say that the tremendous support we got from Most Holy Redeemer parish was immeasurable. By the time he died in April of 1988, he was very calm, very accepting, and almost anxious to go, so to speak. So, it was a marvelous experience for me to go through as well, mainly because of its effect on him."

Britt was 51.

Folsom, now 71, said when he heard that the pope had died, the poignancy of that moment returned.

"And my gratitude to the pope for what he did for my partner was rekindled," he explained.

Grateful, but disappointed

Folsom said that although he is grateful to the pope and the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, he is disap-

pointed by the Catholic Church's stand against gay rights, against women being allowed to become priests, its opposition to birth control, and the celibacy rule for priests.

"The church is not in step with the needs and the lives of today's people," he said.

Folsom and Britt both grew up as practicing Catholics but stopped going to church because they didn't feel they were welcomed there, Folsom said. The couple moved to San Francisco from the East Coast in 1985. Folsom continued to be involved in the church after Britt's death and volunteered at the Coming Home Hospice.

"In the last three or four years, I stopped going back to church because that disappointment I felt years earlier had resurfaced," he said. "I just don't want to participate in a church that doesn't seem to want me."

"I see myself being a Catholic but I don't see myself returning to the church. It's like being Irish. It's something I was born with and probably won't leave me. I think Catholic. I pray Catholic. But I am angry about the posture the church takes about people like myself."



Jim Folsom holds a picture of Pope John Paul II blessing himself, and his partner, Jim Britt, at Mission Dolores on September 17, 1987.

Longtime journalist and gay activist Allen White covered the "pro-Pope" side of the pontiff's visit for the *Bay Area Reporter*. He echoed much of Folsom's conflicted feelings about the church.

White credited the former head of the Archdiocese of San Francis-

co, Archbishop John Quinn, with orchestrating the pope's meeting with people with AIDS at Mission Dolores. White called the event "historical" and "incredible" and noted that the gathering went a long way to dispelling the stereotype that gays are not religious.

As one on of the reporters who covered the pope's Mass at Candlestick Park the day after his visit to Mission Dolores, White, who is not Catholic, was seated close to the pope. White said he was struck by the pope's charismatic presence, although he noted that some of that energy might have been a reflection of enthusiasm brought by the 60,000 people who flocked to the stadium to see the pope.

"He stood for policies that were extremely hostile to our community. There is absolutely no question. Very frankly, trying to sort it out in your head after you experience it is very difficult."

"In the 24 hours he was in San Francisco, thousands of people protested against him and they were right. His position on condoms and AIDS prevention is so unacceptable that it is almost beyond forgiveness. How many people have died because of the policy of the Roman Catholic Church? Having said that, what I experienced in Candlestick Park is unlike anything I've experienced with any other person," White added. ▼

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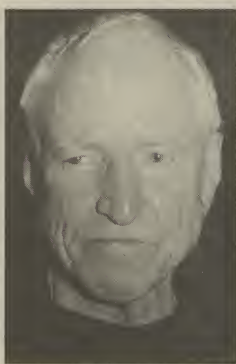
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done great work," said Pride President Joey Cain.

A total of 971 votes were cast in community balloting that began in late February and concluded in March. The total was far less than last year's 2,271 ballots cast. Community grand marshal selections were ratified by the Pride board at its meeting Tuesday, April 5. A breakdown of votes shows that most ballots were cast at various locations throughout the city; other votes were cast via the Internet and ballots printed in local LGBT publications.

According to Pride officials Sachet received the most votes at 345; followed by More, 332; Hormel, 309; and Burns, 245. Three other candidates — Molly McKay, Alec Mapa, and Peggy Moore received less than 200 votes each.

Celebrity drag queen Sachet is a former Miss Gay San Francisco and Empress and is a regular contest judge, event emcee, ribbon-cutter, Pride Parade television hostess, and party entertainer whose face and name are recognizable locally and abroad. She is a longtime performer for charitable causes and also hosts the annual "Songs of the Season" holiday show, with proceeds going to help people with HIV/AIDS. She serves or has served as honorary co-chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund; board member of Positive Resource Center; co-chair of the Imperial Council; president of the



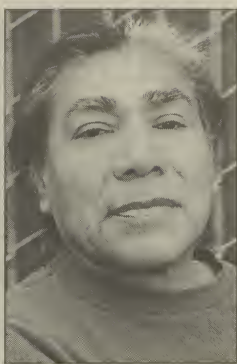
Grand marshal James C. Hormel

Empress Council; and board member of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

"I was thrilled to be nominated with such a slate of people and I'm doubly thrilled to be serving with those selected," Sachet said of her grand marshal honor. "I've done a lot of things with the parade, including walking, riding, and singing, and this will be the icing on the cake."

More is one of San Francisco's most influential drag personas, with a resume that includes a variety of performance as well as charity work. She has helped to raise over \$250,000 for LGBT and HIV groups locally and was a part of the first effort to serve the city's earliest diagnosed patients.

Upon hearing of her grand marshal honor, More gasped and said, "I'm going to have to make a



Grand marshal Randy Burns

big dress." She then issued the following statement:

"From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank everyone within our community, who just even thought of voting for me. The generosity in this particular choice may perhaps be found by future generations as a touch eccentric, but the mere fact of it ... the extravagant, pure, human kindness of it ... must be seen as a brilliant star in broad daylight, which shines upon me at this moment, dazzling me a little, but filling me with warmth of extraordinary joy. Because of all of you, I look forward to fashionably floating down Market Street this gay Pride, representing all of those



Grand marshal Juanita More

who possess a nasty taste for uncommon beauty."

Hormel is a longtime LGBT hero and philanthropist who has funded numerous gay, literary, and civil rights projects and organizations around the globe. He became the first openly gay United States ambassador when he was named to the post in Luxembourg by then-President Clinton in 1999, and since then he has continued to serve the community and world at large. Hormel was not reachable by press time for comment.

Burns is an activist, advocate, and writer who founded Gay American Indians, an organization that formed in 1975 to serve LGBT Native Americans. A

Northern Paiute Native American and a member of the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe, his resume includes activist work for HIV/AIDS and human rights organizations and government committees, as well as volunteer work for a variety of nonprofits. Burns was not reachable by press time for comment.

PAWS, which received 416 votes in the organization category, is the local agency that provides pet care to people living with disabling illnesses. PAWS provides food, litter, walking, transportation, and fostering services to clients with HIV/AIDS and other conditions, so that their animal companions may remain a part of their lives. PAWS also provides educational services and outreach to the community.

"I am thrilled," said John Lipp, executive director of PAWS. "It's really humbling that the community has been so supportive of PAWS. And the reality is, there would not be a PAWS without the GLBT community."

As SF Pride's members and college of former marshals get ready to cast their own votes for grand marshal, Cain said he hopes the community's lesbians and other women are given top consideration.

"I will be encouraging them to make sure women and lesbians are considered. That is something that's missing from the folks who won the community vote," said Cain. ▼

Marriage bill

◀ page 1

which of course is really welcome, has to do specifically with our comprehensive domestic partners law AB205 and AB25. The judge stated that though California defines marriage as between a man and a woman there is nothing in our family code that suggests the Legislature cannot provide legal protections for same-sex couples through a parallel construct such as domestic partnership."

The overriding point made in the two court decisions, Leno said, is "there is nothing in state law that says legal protections cannot be granted to committed same-sex couples."

Kors said there is a "reasonable chance" of getting the necessary 41 votes to move Leno's bill out of the Assembly this year. Last year Leno pulled the bill when he could not line up enough lawmakers to vote for the measure.

"I feel more confident of it this week than I did last week or the week before," said Kors. "It looks like the tide has turned on the

damage created by the inaccurate assessment that our community and this issue caused [John] Kerry to lose the presidential election last year. We have now turned that corner and are moving forward."

The first step will be bringing religious leaders who support gay marriage to Sacramento on Monday, April 18 to lobby lawmakers. The lobbying effort will come one day before the state Senate and Assembly judiciary committees hold hearings Tuesday, April 19 on a state constitutional amendment that would ban gay couples not only from marrying but entering into domestic partnerships.

"We believe we have the votes to kill it in both committees," predicted Kors. "We know that is going to lead to the beginning of signature gathering efforts" to place the measure on the ballot.

Then on Tuesday, April 26 the Assembly Judiciary Committee will take up Leno's bill where it is ensured passage. Every Democrat on the committee is a coauthor of the bill.

The same is true in the appropriations committee, where Leno has lined up all the Democratic members to be either coauthors or

public supporters of the bill. Leno has until June, when the bill will come before the full Assembly for a vote, to corral the 41 votes needed for passage.

"As of today we don't have those 41 votes. I am still talking to members and tying things down," Leno said Monday, April 4. "We are probably about a handful shy, not because we have confirmed no's but I haven't had an opportunity to meet one on one with the members who are not yet publicly in support. I have meetings set up with everybody between now and May. Some people are still giving it thought."

One such lawmaker is Assemblyman Joe Cenciamilla (D-Pittsburg), the only Bay Area Democrat not to have already voiced support for Leno's bill. Along with Leno, Equality California and members of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays plan to meet with the lawmaker in coming weeks to urge his support.

"He has an excellent voting record for us. We are very hopeful he will continue that record of support for equality for all," said Kors. ▼

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Activists push Alameda supes on gay marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

Nearly a year after its own human rights panel urged it to pass a resolution in support of gay marriage, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has failed to act on the issue. Now, East Bay LGBT activists, fed up with what they see as political foot dragging, are speaking out. They have gone to the last three supervisors' meetings to urge the board to put the item on its agenda.

"I am infuriated. I think it is ridiculous. I can't believe the board is so slow on this," said San Leandro resident and Chabot College student Mykal Stevens, who spoke before the board in late March.

With a marriage equality bill set to be taken up by the state Assembly at the end of April, time is running out for local political bodies to pass measures urging state lawmakers to vote in support of the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, AB19, introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). The Assembly's Judiciary Committee will hear the bill on April 26.

"We don't really know of any opposition among the supervisors. There is a delay and we are trying to understand and eliminate it," said Molly McKay, executive director of Marriage Equality California. "This is important and it is time for them to take a position while all the bills are still at play."

In order for the board to vote on the resolution, a supervisor has to agree to place it on the following meeting's agenda by 3 p.m. Tuesday, the day the board meets. According to LGBT activists, Supervisor Nate Miley, whose district covers East Oakland, Castro Valley, Fairview, and Dublin, has indicated he would vote for the measure but has not sponsored placing it on an agenda.

Miley did not return a call seeking comment, nor did board president Keith Carson, whose district covers North and West Oakland, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Piedmont. Carson, who sponsored a pro-gay nondiscrimination measure in January, has also been approached by LGBT activists asking him to place the marriage equality issue on a board agenda.

Another target is Supervisor



Supervisor Gail Steele

Gail Steele, whose district covers Hayward, Union City, and Newark. When initially asked by the *Bay Area Reporter* for a comment, Steele said, "I don't have anything to tell you. Nate said he would move forward with it, but I don't know if anything is going to happen with it."

Steele then called back to say that while she personally supports same-sex couples being given the right to marry, she does not see why the board should get involved in this or other political issues that do not have to do with the day-to-day running of the county.

"Certainly I have no problem for people wanting to marry. Children should have that protection," said Steele. "It will be decided, I think ultimately, it is going to pass. It has to pass in the long run. You can't have children and relationships of 50 years get screwed because people can't get benefits from the person you spent all your life with. The time has come, no question on it."

But Steele added she felt the board is being asked to pass too many resolutions on a wide array of political issues, from same-sex marriage and transgender bathroom rights to the Patriot Act and the death penalty.

"Yeah, you know, I just can't stand this stuff. Just the whole political resolution process," said Steele. "We didn't used to do this. Now we are going to outdo Berkeley. We have to take a position on everything. I have enough pressure in this job to melt anything without even going into everyone's issues."

Her constituents disagree and

say they elected her to be their voice.

"We elected her to be from the majority to look out for the minority rather than have majority rule. They are supposed to be someone in between to protect the minority and that is what we are," said Hayward resident Marvin Burrows, who lost his partner of nearly 51 years, Bill Swenor, on March 7.

Swenor and Burrows married last year in San Francisco, and the LGBT activists pushing the supervisors on the marriage issue have dedicated their work to the couple. Burrows spoke before the commission last spring, but due to the death of his partner, has not had the energy or time to speak before the supervisors.

"A lot of gay people nest down here," said Burrows. "We nested years ago and it would be nice to be recognized and acknowledged in our own community rather than having to go to San Francisco all the time."

As Leno meets with other Democratic lawmakers who have yet to pledge support for his bill, he said it is "definitely important" to have local level officials voice their support.

"It is important to show there is support from other electeds around the state. Each resolution has gone through a public hearing where the constituents had an opportunity to speak on the subject

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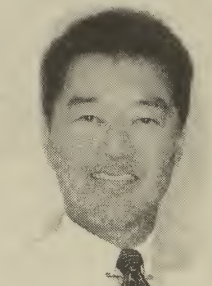
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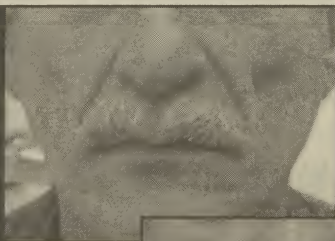
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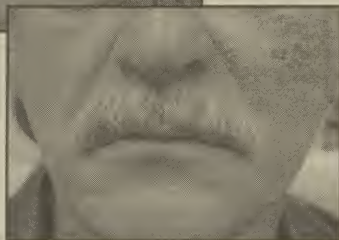
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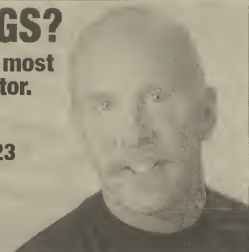
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4Parents Web site draws fire from gays

by Bob Roehr

A new Web site operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, www.4parents.gov, has drawn fire from gay advocates and others for pushing a right-wing agenda and ignoring issues that LGBT youth often face.

4parents "is a guide to help you and your teen discuss important, yet difficult, issues about healthy choices, sex, and relationships," according to its home page. The site launched on March 25.

The Web site was created with the assistance of the National Physicians Center for Family Resources. The Alabama-based group was paid for its services and has received contracts to run abstinence-only programs. It is anti-choice, with strong ties to Focus on the Family and other social conservative groups.

The site is little more than an online brochure or pamphlet and lacks a search function for easy use. This being a G-rated government Web site, it sticks to clinical terminology, not the more common slang that teens typically use to describe sexual acts.

In a March 29 letter to HHS Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, the Human Rights Campaign expressed concern that "the material on your Web site perpetuates some dangerous misperceptions that could prove harmful to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth and their families."

HRC's letter pointed out that the section on sexual orientation could only be accessed through a section on abstinence. "Given that



GLMA's Joel Ginsberg

abstinence is commonly understood to mean abstinence until marriage and given that LGBT individuals (unless they live in Massachusetts) are denied the ability to legally marry, this is a counterintuitive place for this discussion."

HRC was "disappointed" that the Web site "focuses mainly on condom failure rates and their ability to be misused ... there is absolutely no clear information on how to use condoms properly."

It asked HHS to address these issues "so that it can truly serve its purpose to help parents play vital roles in maintaining our children's health." And it offered to help in making those changes.

Joel Ginsberg, executive director of the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, called it "a *Leave it to Beaver* vision of America" from the 1950s that doesn't reflect the world as it

is today. "It reflects a larger strategy to try to make homosexuality just go away."

He fears that the Bush administration has "decided to let their religious buddies" rewrite public health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The presumption seems to be that homosexuality is just another lifestyle choice and "people will just walk away once they realize how unhealthy it is," Ginsberg said the message to gay kids is, "Don't have sex. EVER. Or maybe, just don't exist."

Julie Davids, executive director of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, criticized the 4Parents content "for saying that condoms don't work, while overlooking the flaws of abstinence-promotion programs." It also "encourages young people to shun people living with HIV."

CHAMP is urging people to contact Leavitt to tell him to "take down the site until you have honest information to support all kinds of healthy families including families living with HIV."

The Sexual Information and Education Council of the United States has organized 144 national, state, and local organizations in a sign-on letter to the secretary. The letter criticized the site for dictating "values and ground rules to parents," relying upon "fear and shame," and distorting the needs of American teens.

SIECUS also urged Leavitt to take down the Web site until it can be corrected. And it suggested creating a task force of a wide range of experts to review the materials that should be included on the site. ▼

News briefs

◀ page 4

Sunday, April 17; and Saturday, April 30. All sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and people are required to attend all five days.

People of color, transgenders, women, and survivors of violence are strongly encouraged to volunteer. For more information, contact Vanissar at (415) 777-5500, ext. 323 or e-mail vanissar@cuav.org.

Social Security town hall

The Democratic Women's Forum will present an educational forum on "Social Security: Its Impact on You and How You Can Get Involved in the Fight to Save It" Saturday, April 9 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Milton Marks Auditorium at the State Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, between Larkin and Polk, in San Francisco.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) is scheduled to be the featured guest.

Aileen Hernandez, a former president of the National Organization for Women, will facilitate the forum. Panelists include David Lazarus, from the *San Francisco Chronicle*; Shirley Chater, former Social Security Administration commissioner; Carroll Estes, a professor of sociology at the University of California, San Francisco; Byron MacDonald, of the World Institute on Disabilities; and Brooke Hollister, a co-founder of Students for So-

cial Security. A question and answer session will also take place.

The morning workshop will also include training for speakers, coalition building, and rally organizing.

Organizational sponsors include the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the Asian American Democratic Club, the California Women's Agenda, the Carolene Marks/Milton Marks Democratic Club, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

Benefit for Project Open Hand

Project Open Hand will be the beneficiary of the fourth annual "Community, Heart, Hand, and Hope ... The Tastes, Sounds, and Spirits of Northern California." The event is presented by the Northern California Chapter of Meeting Professionals International and takes place Tuesday, April 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan Street in San Francisco. Admission is \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door.

The event will showcase some of the Bay Area's finest practitioners of the fine art of food and wine with samples from over 25 restaurants, caterers, and wineries. Hawaiian dancers and local musicians will provide entertainment. Additionally, there will be a raffle with fabulous prizes, including a week's vacation on the Big Island of Hawaii. Hawaiian attire is welcome at the event.

Project Open Hand provides meals and groceries for people

living with HIV/AIDS, lunches for seniors, and meals for critically ill and homebound people under the age of 60. Services are available to eligible clients in San Francisco and Alameda counties.

To register or for more information, visit www.openhand.org/hhh or call (925) 472-5902.

Historical society tours

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society in San Francisco will host a public reception with guided tours of its archival collections Thursday, April 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event is part of a yearlong, citywide celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, which was founded in San Francisco in 1945.

The tours will focus on the society's archives with a focus on the international scope of the LGBT movement. Visitors will receive a behind the scenes look at manuscripts, periodicals, and graphic arts that have never been displayed publicly, including the unpublished journal of a lesbian poet describing her 1925 visit to Berlin to Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, founder of the first homosexual rights organization in the world.

Additionally, people will be able to view the society's current exhibit: "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletes and Cultural Change, 1960s to Today."

The historical society is located at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300, between New Montgomery and Third streets. For more information, call (415) 777-5455. ▼

OBITUARIES

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Mario Raul Alonzo



Born on Christmas Day, 1955 to Julieta Espell and Miguel Angel Alonzo in Guatemala. Survived by a brother, Gorges Alonzo, of Virginia, and other relatives in the U.S. and Guatemala. Mario is also survived by his best friend Simon and his partner Christopher Sullivan of San Francisco. Mario passed away on Palm Sunday and was laid to rest on Good Thursday.

Way to go, Mario! I already knew you were an angel!

Mario immigrated to the U.S. in 1982 and settled in San Francisco in 1984. He was employed at the Fairmont Hotel for 15 years. Mario's passions were pool and slots. He racked balls, broke hearts, and made friends wherever he went. He was a member of the SFPA, and played for the Transfer Ball

Busters/Tarantulas for 13 years. Mario's adventures to Las Vegas were many. He enjoyed slots as much as pool.

Mario, your generous and loving presence and grace are in our hearts, forever etched.

A Celebration of Mario's Life will be held on April 17th, 2-6 p.m. at The Transfer bar at Market and Church streets. Call Regina for more info: 415-531-5628.

Gene Clift Dennis



Gene Clift Dennis, 78, of Cathedral City, died April 1, 2005 in Palm Springs of a stroke.

He was born March 28, 1927, to S. Oswald B. Dennis and Alice N. Mazy, Los Angeles, California.

He was a photographer at the Paul Hesse Studios, Hollywood. Fashion model at the Conover Agency in New

York. Screen tests opposite Jean Simmons in London for Blue Lagoon. Fashion photographer for Macy's in New York and San Francisco. Taught Fashion Photography at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. Manager of Records at Home Federal of SF, from which he retired.

Member of the Hollywood Canteen, ARMA, AIIIM, The Inter-Club Fund of SF, Barbary Coasters SF and Imperial Court of SF.

He is survived by his partner

Matthew Brown of 26 years; daughter Victoria (Nicolas) Dennis and three grand-daughters, Paris, France; brother Harold (Dorothy) Dennis of Los Angeles; sister Dorothy Wynne of Palm Springs; nephews Denny (JoAnn), Craig (Kerry) and Kenny (Debra) Dennis and families; and niece, Cathy (Bob) Peterson.

He requested no service and ashes scattered at sea.

The family suggest that donations be made to the Desert Aid Project, 1695 N. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

Business Briefs

◀ page 8

come to the neighborhood!

Former city Supervisor **Leslie Katz** has accepted a position as managing director at the legislative and regulatory advocacy firm Public Affairs Management, a division of **Duane Morris LLP** in the Financial District. It's a unique firm, as most of its employees have served in government positions. Katz is already working on strategic planning, government relations, and consulting work in the regulatory and legislative arenas, at both the local and state level for a wide variety of clients.

It will be interesting to see how the **BS Restaurant and Bar's** slogan "Come for the Meat" goes over at its new restaurant at 4072 18th Street (formerly La Moone). The restaurant specializes in alcoholic milk shakes, burgers, and Diamond Ranch steaks. The Castro has always been known as a "meatpacking" district and their restaurant capitalizes on that!

The **Yellow Brick Road**, a gay-friendly television show that originated in Palm Springs, is coming to San Francisco. **Dana Adkins**, of *Beach Blanket Babylon* fame, hosts the new program, which will be aired three times a week debuting on April 26 on KNTV-TV, the NBC affiliate (check local listings for channel). This hour-long program features a snappy magazine-style format.

Working to make **Comcast's OutSpoken** television program, hosted by **Tim Gaskin**, more likely to be picked up as a national show, Gaskin is adding a QTV news segment to each half-hour show. "LGBT news only makes it to the mainstream media when it is sensational or scandalous. Our show addresses the underserved local LGBT population that craves LGBT news," Gaskin said. Catch the show on Comcast Channel 11.

Keith Schroeder reports that his longtime business **Castro**



Keith Schroeder in front of his Castro Photo shop last month.

Photo, 4115 19th Street at Castro closed last month due to the digital age of photography. The store opened not long after Harvey Milk's shop closed and Schroeder has been involved with the store for 24 of the past 26 years. He will work next door at the **Castro Village Wine Shop**. Schroeder remains upbeat, "If you think about four more years of the Bush administration, selling something that alters reality makes a lot more sense than something that records reality."

I received a flyer advertising the **Metro City** bar and the **Castro Bar and Bistro** at 3600 16th Street at Market for sale for \$725,000. **Herth Real Estate** broker **Lee Julien** said that the bar is now in escrow with a back-up offer, adding that multiple offers are a rarity for bars and

restaurants. It must be the marketing – "Balconies overlooking the pulse of the city," the flyer says.

Jaguar Adult Books, 4057 18th Street at Hartford Street, had a going out of business sale recently. We heard through the grapevine they had a big rent increase. **Superstar Video** at 3989 17th Street at Castro closed for business. This is not to be confused with **Superstar Satellite** at 474 Castro Street, which has a different owner and is going strong. We just heard that the **Loading Dock** leather bar has lost its lease at 1525 Mission at 11th.

GGBA events

Monthly Mixer – Join us at the **Wax Museum at Fisherman's Wharf**, 145 Jefferson Street (between Taylor and Mason) on Tuesday, April 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the monthly Golden Gate Business Association "Make Contact" mixer. I've heard that **Jodie Foster**, **Leonardo DiCaprio**, and **Barbra Streisand** will be there (in their waxed glory, that is). This event is free to GGBA members and \$10 for non-members. I hope to see you there! Visit www.ggba.com for more information or call GGBA at (415) 865-5545. ▼

Katharine Holland is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, specializing in residential and investment properties in San Francisco. You can reach her at khsf@att.net, (415) 447-8849, or www.katharineholland.com.

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Dr. Markus Watson, second from left, gets a certificate at the opening of his Castro dental practice from District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, right.

The gay agenda

by Jim Provenzano

Recovering from "la public-ité," let's get back to the people who actually do all the sports stuff. Some events are several weeks away, but hey, you're busy and need to plan in advance, doncha?

Splashy

The fourth annual Tsunami de Mayo Water Polo Tournament, Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, will bring players from New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Diego, Utah, Seattle, and of course, the host, San Francisco's Tsunami Polo, for days of competition and a fabulous party.

The Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School in Mor-

aga will be the site of men's and women's games, plus a performance by Tsynchro — yes, synchronized swimming. Games are Saturday, with synchro and finals on Sunday.

Tsunami polo's annual "Spish" party is Saturday, May 7, at StudioZ, 11th and Folsom in San Francisco, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Must be 21 or older. DJ swingkidd (DRuNK & HoRNY/The Underground SF) break beats, and pop. Enjoy a "Fizashion" show at 10:30. For more info, visit www.tsunamipolo.org.

Hoopy

Local gay men's basketball

teams had a fundraiser beer benefit at the SF Eagle last Sunday, and many are off to Chicago this weekend for a regional tournament. But practices and games start up soon. Get signed up for the

Thursday night league. The league starts in three weeks. Call Tony Jasinski at (415) 717-7211.

Wilde thing

Sunday, April 10, stop by the Wildside Social for GSL softball players and their friends and fans; 424 Courtland Avenue in Bernal Heights, from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a barbecue and 50/50 raffle.

Next month will be the 2005 Golden Bear Classic. This year's classic will be held over Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, at the Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale.

This year's classic has been named both a Women's World Series Qualifier and a NAGAAA-sponsored Open A Division tournament, ensuring a great weekend of intense but friendly competition. The classic will offer competition in all divisions (Open A, B, C, and D, and women's competitive, alternative, and recreational).

For more info on this season's softball teams, www.sfgsl.org.

May days

Memorial Day weekend will also see San Francisco host tennis players, wrestlers, and martial artists. The Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation will host the annual United States Gay Open at tennis courts around the city, Golden Gate Park courts in particular. For more info, visit www.gltf.org.

For wrestling and martial arts event, which include tournaments and social events, visit Golden Gate Wrestling Club at www.gggwc.org.

Fog horns

The San Francisco Fog rugby team invites all rough and rugged men to convene in San Francisco on Saturday, June 25 to participate in the rowdiest damn rugby festival this side of the Mississippi: FogFest II.

The emphasis at their rugby festival is on both the competition



SF Fog's Bryce Eberhart, left, and Tsunami Polo's Mike Frick at the 2003 Pride Parade.

of the sport and on the fun aspects of rugby. Individuals register and are placed on teams at random. This provides a great opportunity to play with others you might not ordinarily get to meet.

This year's version is slated for San Francisco Pride weekend on beautiful Treasure Island in the center of San Francisco Bay. The Fog mates are expecting players from all over the Pacific Coast Rugby Football Union in addition to their IGRAB brothers from Arizona, Southern California, the Northwest, and beyond.

One of the unforgettable events of FogFest is the Saturday night party, whose details, according to organizers, "are meant to evoke the spirit of the wild Barbary Coast of San Francisco's past." Mmm, men dancing and carousing together.

Participants will have the opportunity to march in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26 and

hang out at the Fog's booths at the Pride Festival. Get registration information, tournament rules, housing information, and social information at www.fogfest.com.

Civic centered

Pride celebrations are also over two months away, but if you want to get your sports group represented in the fabulous "Sports Block" at Civic Center for the festival, sign up for registration for the SF Pride 2005 Celebration to be held June 25 and June 26 at www.sfpd.org/register, or contact Richard in exhibitor relations at exhibitor@sfpd.org.

Jim Provenzano is the guest curator of "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today," on exhibit now through 2005 at the GLBT Historical Society. Info at www.glbthistory.org.



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Softball stats

In honor of the vintage days of gay sports journalism, softball standings are something I hope to post more frequently, but all those numbers make me dizzy. Here's a quick look at last week's team rankings. For more specifics, visit www.sfgsl.org.

Barbary Coast Division

1. SF Seals (A)
2. SF Spitfire (B)
3. Grizzlies (A)

Cable Car Division

1. SF Renegades
2. Maniax
3. SF Hard Drive

Golden Gate Division

1. SF Menace
2. SF Comets
3. Q Action Catch

Women's Competitive Division

1. Pilsner Panthers
2. SF Fire
3. Killer B's

Alameda

◀ page 19

and when the vote is taken duly elected members of these bodies have cast a vote for marriage equality and we can add them to our long and growing list of endorsers of AB19," said Leno. "Our list is very impressive. It's much, much longer and much more comprehensive than the opposition's."

As part of its lobbying efforts on behalf of Leno's bill, McKay's group has been lobbying local officials to pass resolutions in support of marriage equality and AB19, which would allow same-sex couples to receive marriage licenses from the state. San Francisco supervisors and Santa Cruz County's board both passed resolutions in support of marriage equality last year.

San Mateo County supervisors are set to vote on a pro-gay marriage resolution April 12. And Human Relations Commissions in Contra Costa, San Luis Obispo, and Humboldt counties have all passed similar declarations in support of AB19. McKay said activists would soon be

asking the supervisors in those counties to pass similar measures.

In Alameda County, the Human Relations Commission passed its own pro-gay marriage resolution on April 19, 2004. Ever since, LGBT activists have been asking the supervisors to follow suit, but so far to no avail.

"I certainly would like to see them pass it. We are all feeling disappointed that they haven't taken it up," said Jerrold Castleberry, an openly gay member of the commission. "We all have to make a stand whether in governing bodies, passing laws or not. We have to exert any influence we can and let the legislators know where we stand and where the constituents stand on it."

Castleberry said his commission would decide Wednesday, April 6 (after the B.A.R.'s deadline) on whether to pass a revised resolution in support of Leno's bill at its April 20 meeting. McKay and several LGBT parents had asked the supervisors at their Tuesday, April 5 meeting to place the matter on their April 19 meeting, but no supervisor agreed to do so by the 3 p.m. deadline.

Some suspect the supervisors'

reluctance stems from the backlash they received earlier this year after they passed a resolution banning sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination as well as a resolution in support of designating certain bathrooms non-gender specific. Steele said she has a two-inch thick stack of e-mails and letters from people opposed to the measures.

"I honestly think the board is afraid of a backlash perhaps from folks who are on the religious right or their conservative voters. If they are afraid of that, I think they are out of touch," said Stevens, who was crowned Imperial Crown Duke XXVI this year and plans to bring members of the Imperial Star Empire Inc. of Alameda and Contra Costa County to speak before the supervisors later this month.

Castleberry said most people who spoke before his commission last year were supportive of the pro-gay resolution and suggested more LGBT county residents needed to speak out on the issue.

"Right now the gay community is not doing all that we can to influence the supervisors," he said. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Zealand

◀ page 15

nightclub district of the city.

For a walk on Wellington's wild side, the cruise club, Sanctuary, at 45 Courtney Place, is a short walk from Pound/Sovereign. Checkmate, a "men's sauna and health club," is at 20 Garrett Street. Gay friendly accommodations include the Kauri Trees B&B, in a beautifully restored 1890 home. It's owned by a delightful gay couple from Ireland, retired designer Daniel McKeown, and his partner Gerard Walsh, a physician.

The new and upscale Youth Hostel Association New Zealand in Wellington is steps from the Te Papa Museum. It's managed by an openly gay man, Hamish Allardice, and very gay friendly. A private room is about \$50 and if you want to do the dorm thing, you can stay for less than \$20.

Popular accommodations for lesbians include the women-only guest house, The Mermaid. It's situated in the city's center but in a residential area surrounded by Victorian homes.

Christchurch

Christchurch is New Zealand's third-largest city, after Auckland and Wellington. With about 330,000 people, it has the largest population on the country's South Island. Christchurch is best known for its English colonial architecture.

Its gay clubs include Chameleon, at 170 Tuam Street and Cruz, at 90 Lichfield Street. Christchurch's sauna/cruise club is Menfriends, at 83 Lichfield Street. Gay-friendly accommodations here include 80 Lichfield and Dorothy's. Women-only accommodations include High Living and Left Bank on Avon.

Nelson

Although it has no gay-specific venues, Nelson, on the north end of the South Island, boasts the sunniest weather in all of New Zealand and is known for its liberal, bohemian ambience and countless art galleries. Nelson is just a 25-minute plane ride from Wellington. Just outside Nelson,

Happy Valley Adventures features something for all adventure-seekers including a thrilling chair lift ride through spectacular scenery.

Gay friendly accommodations include the Wakefield Quay House, run by Woodi Moore and her husband, Johnny Moore, a sailing instructor. Woodi is the "Auntie Mame" of Nelson and a perfect host famous for her gourmet breakfasts.

The Moores' good friends, a gay couple, Richard Hewetson and James Taylor, own the popular Te Puna Wai Lodge B&B. It's just up the hill from the Moores' place in an elegantly restored Victorian home.

Floosie Gardens is a popular women-only guest house in Nelson. It's on a quiet sunny hill with a view but just minutes from Nelson center.

For the budget-minded, you can get dorm accommodations in Nelson at a backpacker hostel for around \$25 per night.

Queenstown

Queenstown is New Zealand's tourist mecca and is a must-see stop. It's on the South Island, south of Christchurch. It is set on Lake Wakatipu, surrounded by the Southern Alps and 1,020 feet above sea level.

Although it has no permanent gay venues, gay activities can be found on the Web site gayqueenstown.com. Queenstown is the site of the gay ski week scheduled for September 3-10, 2005.

Queenstown is a thrill-seeker's paradise, with countless adrenaline-inducing activities from bungee jumping to speed boat racing. Be sure to take the Skyline Gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for a spectacular view of the city. You can also take a luge ride around the peak.

Gay friendly accommodations include Mountviva Boutique Hotel on a quiet hill but just a five-minute walk from downtown. The ultra-luxurious White Shadows Country Inn is a perfect place for couples, just a 15-minute drive from downtown. It's owned by a gay couple from Los Angeles, Bill Bailey and Mike Harris. It just opened five years ago but has already developed a devoted follow-

ing. It's closed during New Zealand's winter, which is our summer.

Money

You will get about 1.25 New Zealand dollars for a U.S. dollar at the current exchange rate. Overall, Auckland is New Zealand's most expensive area. You can expect to pay a little more for most things there. Prices in other cities in New Zealand are comparable to the Bay Area. One important thing to keep in mind, the price you see is generally the price you pay. Shops and restaurants include the 12.5 percent GST or sales tax in the posted price and New Zealand is proudly a non-tipping country. If you are given exceptional service in a restaurant, you can tip 5 percent or 10 percent but it's not expected. Most hotels include the GST in the posted price but there are a few, mostly high-end hotels that do not, so be sure to ask.

Getting there

Air New Zealand operates six nonstop flights a week from San Francisco International Airport to Auckland. It's currently running a special of \$650 round-trip, for travel in May and June, for tickets purchased by April 15. The airline has an affiliation with United Airlines, so be sure to give them your UAL frequent flyer number. You will get a hefty 8,163 miles credit for each direction.

Weather

Overall the weather in New Zealand is very mild and similar to the Bay Area. In Auckland and the rest of the North Island, the temperature rarely dips below freezing.

The weather in the South Island is more seasonal. For example, it will often get below freezing in Queenstown during their winter (our summer), although it seldom snows at ground level. The average winter day is crisp and sunny.

Christmas time through February are the warmest months, with daytime temperatures in the 80s but it's also the busiest tourist season, so if you go then, you will have plenty of company. Many hotels also discount their rates during the winter. ▼

to the recall drive against her.

While Feinstein did issue a Pride proclamation in 1979, she has never marched in the parade, whether as mayor or since becoming a senator in 1992. As senator, she has vigorously opposed the Federal Marriage Amendment voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, and was a vocal supporter of James Hormel in his fight to become the first openly gay person to serve as a U.S. ambassador.

Last year, the Human Rights Campaign gave Feinstein a score of 75 out of 100 points for her voting record on gay rights issues. Her refusal to meet with backers and become a cosigner of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act has also brought her ire from the LGBT community.

Sunnyvale resident Leslie Bulbuk, who with her partner Marta Donayre founded Love Sees No Borders, said her feelings toward Feinstein being given the Pink Brick are mixed.

"It is kind of a mixed bag. We have been trying to get to the senator with this issue for two and a half years now and have never been able to get a meeting with her. We are always given to staff," said Bulbuk. "It doesn't seem to me she is not signing on to it because of gay issues. Her major concern is immigration reform. But if binational couples have to wait for immigration to be reformed be-

fore we can be legitimate families that sends a bad message to the LGBT community."

Adam Francoeur, program coordinator for Immigration Equality, said he is not surprised to hear about Feinstein winning the award because immigration is a huge issue for many LGBT people in California. Feinstein is one of the few members of the California Democratic Caucus in Congress who has not signed on in support of the act. But he added he personally does not think she is deserving of a Pink Brick.

While the Pride committee did consider combining Sheldon's and his coalition's votes into one award, Cain said in the end that idea was nixed because it would be tampering with the community's vote. By giving her the Pink Brick, Cain said he hopes it allows for a reasoned reexamination of her record.

"Quite honestly, Dianne has never been comfortable with sexual living gay men. She has always been more comfortable with sad, dying gay men. That is not my personal belief but it is the feeling in the community," said Cain. "I hope this can stimulate a dialogue with her. I think in a way it's a level of maturity in our community that we can look at someone who has been a lukewarm supporter and say, 'we want you to support us when our backs are against the wall.'" ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING - 2005 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The Mayor's Office of Community Development and Housing and SF Redevelopment Agency announce the availability of the Draft 2005 Five-Year Consolidated Plan for review and comment from April 8 through May 9, 2005. The Consolidated Plan outlines the strategy for San Francisco's use of four federal funding sources: CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA. The Citizens' Committee on Community Development will hear comments on the Consolidated Plan at its meeting on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 6:00PM at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 330A. For more information, please call MOCED at (415) 252-3100 or visit its website at www.sfgov.org.

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VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at www.sfgov.org/site/uploads/files/bdsuprvs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Animal Control and Welfare Commission

Seat 3, must be a member representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters; for a two-year term ending April 30, 2007.

Seat 4, must be a member representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters; for a two-year term ending April 30, 2007.

Seat 5, must be a member representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters; for a two-year term ending April 30, 2007.

Seat 6, must be a member representing the general public having interest and experience in animal matters; for a two-year term ending April 30, 2007.

MAYOR'S SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) is currently accepting applications from agencies interested in participating in the 2005 Mayor's Summer Food Service Program. In partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District DCYF delivers free lunches to children and youth 18 years of age and younger at sites citywide. If you are a youth-serving agency or program that would like to serve free lunches to children and youth in your community this summer, please visit our website www.dcyf.org or call Anna Rainey at 415-554-8416. Applications are due by April 15, 2005.

STATEMENT FILE A-0283706-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Soccer Insight, 379 A Elizabeth St., San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed D L Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/15/05. MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0281578

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Happy Buddha located at 280 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Wing San Yu. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/04. MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283831-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Marsh And Associates, 2134 Green St. Apt. 3 San Francisco, Ca. 94123-4761. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Vincent Marsh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/18/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/18/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284049-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frisco Fog Gift Shop, 1240 Geneva Ave. #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Arturo Espindola Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/28/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284031-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Greenlight Collective, 990 Oak St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Bogart McAvoy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/28/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: www.TheMissionWorks.com, The Mission Works, 2 Henry Adams St. Suite M18 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Myles Garber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/22/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/23/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

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STATEMENT FILE A-0284001-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: MP Investment Group, 915 Golden Gate Ave. Apt. #K San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James F. Metts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/25/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284002-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Capital T Investments, 915 Golden Gate Ave. Apt. #K San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tamekia Vernon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/25/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283449-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hung Nguyen Gardener Service, 9998 45th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Hung Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/4/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/4/05. MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

DiFi

◀ page 2

gay supervisor.

Harry Britt, whom Feinstein appointed to serve in Milk's seat, chuckled when told of her winning the Pink Brick but said he didn't have any particular reaction.

"I have had my share of problems with the mayor over the years but I don't have to fight those fights anymore," said Britt.

Wayne Friday, the *Bay Area Reporter's* retired political columnist and longtime supporter of Feinstein, has called the Pride committee's decision "stupid." While he did not want to wade into the issue Wednesday morning, Friday said, "the community stands to lose more by attacking her."

Feinstein won re-election in 1979, successfully fought a recall against her in April 1983, and went on to win another term in November that year. As mayor, Feinstein won praise for how she oversaw the city's fight against AIDS, with a budget that even rivaled the nation's AIDS funding under President Reagan.

But she also angered many in the LGBT community when she closed down the gay baths and vetoed the first domestic partnership legislation for gay and lesbian couples. Her veto, as well as her banning handguns in the city, led

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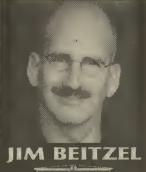
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LEGAL NOTICES

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as: Rue Saint Jacques, 1098 Jackson St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business
is conducted by an individual, signed Cher-
ryl L. Sta-Ana. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/7/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283566-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: European Psychic, 890 Sutter St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Mike
Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/9/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283577-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Royal Loan, 1024 Mission St. San Fran-
cisco, Ca. 94103. This business is con-
ducted by an individual, signed Tengiz Iose-
bavshvili. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 8/11/92.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/9/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283661-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: The Nutsell Corporation, 867 McAllister St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Lavin
Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 10/1/04. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/14/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283624-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: U.S.S. Repose, 4220 Cesar Chavez #211
San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed David A.
Lara. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 3/1/05. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE # CNC 05541898

In the matter of the application of Patrick
Augustus Walsh for change of name. The
application of Patrick Augustus Walsh for
change of name having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Patrick Augustus Walsh has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Aldo Veranzo. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered, that all persons inter-
ested in said matter do appear before this
Court in Room 218 on the 17th day of
May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show
cause why the application for change of
name should not be granted.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE # CNC 05541867

In the matter of the application of Senada
Caus for change of name. The application
of Senada Caus for change of name having
been filed in Court, and it appearing from
said application that Senada Caus has filed
an application proposing that his/her name
be changed to Nadia Caus. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered, that all persons inter-
ested in said matter do appear before this
Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of May,
2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause
why the application for change of name
should not be granted.
MAR. 17, 24, 31 APRIL 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283448-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Lucvan Gardener Service, 2131 40th
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual, signed
Nguyen Luc Van. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
3/1/05. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/4/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283649-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: 1)Splitvision Digital 2) Splitvision,
1738 Haight St. #310 San Francisco, Ca.
94117. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Brendan Coots. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 3/11/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283313-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Hotel Biron, 45 Rose St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a
corporation, signed Jessica Gaston. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 5/28/04. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 2/28/05.
MAR. 24, 31 APRIL 7, 14 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283614-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: CAV, 1666 Market St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by
a limited liability company, signed Tadd
Cortell. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/10/05.
MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL- COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is/are: Sergio Aguiniga and
Jorge Lu Cortes. The applicants listed
above are applying to the Department of
Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Steven-
son Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco,
Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at:
1813 Fulton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117
Type of License applied for:
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -
EATING PLACE. MAR. 31, 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN- CISCO FILE # CNC 05541940

In the matter of the application of Kian-
Chai Gok, KC Gok for change of name.
The application of Kian-Chai Gok, KC
Gok for change of name having been filed
in Court, and it appearing from said applica-
tion that Kian-Chai Gok, KC Gok has
filed an application proposing that his/her
name be changed to Casey Gok. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all per-
sons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Room 218 on the 31st
day of May, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0247593

The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Rug Wrestlers located at 1240 Geneva #1
San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business
was conducted by a general partnership
signed Arturo Espindola Jr. The fictitious
name was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/00.
MAR. 31 APRIL 7, 14, 21 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284199-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Vietnam Too Restaurant, 701 Larkin St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Katie
Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 4/1/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/01/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283829-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: 1.)T.B.G., Photo Album Memories,
2.)Transgender, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian
Photo Album Memories, 220 Pierce St. #8
San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Felicia A.
Elizondo. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 3/18/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/18/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284172-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Mission Bartlett Garage, 3255 21st St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business
is conducted by a corporation, signed Jose
R. Fresco. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/31/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283906-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Markus Lobl Fitness, 1505 Northpoint
San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Markus
S. Lobl. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 3/22/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/22/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283953-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: ATRI Press, 66 Cleary Ct. #503 San Fran-
cisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Mark V. Rose. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/23/05.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

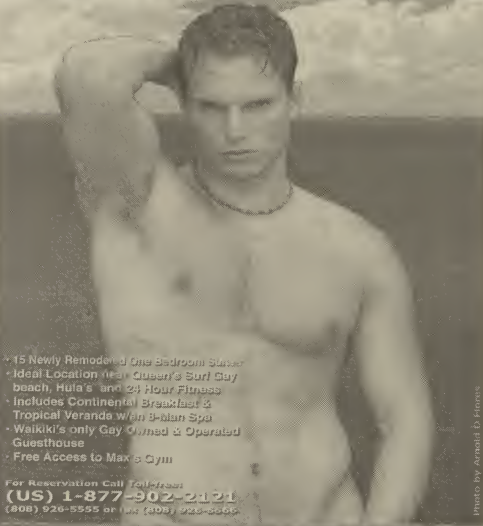
STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTNERSHIP OPERATING UNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280737

The following person(s) has withdrawn
from partnership operating under the ficti-
tious business name known as 1.)California
Choppers 2.)Frisco Customs 3.)Choppers
USA 4.)USA Choppers, located at 1490
Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94013.
Name of person(s) withdrawing from part-
nership Raul Villaseñor. This statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 3/11/04.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, 28 2005

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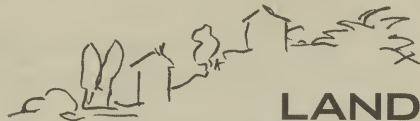
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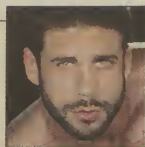
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'Eros' trilogy works, doesn't work
Wong Kar-Wai, Steven Soderbergh and
Michelangelo Antonioni direct shorts.

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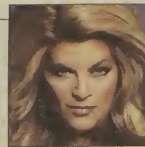
Muscleman sexuality
Box-cover idol Carlo Masi
stars in Colt Studio film.

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Real-life fat actress
TV star Kirstie Alley on
'How To Lose Your Ass'.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 14 • 7 April 2005

Rebel with a cause

Ethan Mao comes to the Castro

by David Lamble

If you've wondered how screenwriters name their characters, I can't claim this is a scientific sample, but filmmaker Quentin Lee rather enjoys the in-joke that inspired his title character's name, the Chinese American teenage boy who takes his homophobic family hostage in Lee's *Ethan Mao*, opening Friday at the Castro Theatre.

"Ethan is the name of the dog of this guy I have a crush on. I was trying to pick an uncommon Chinese surname. Lee or Han or Wong sound very common, without any sophistication. So I decided to pick a rarer name, and Mao came to mind because, of course, Chairman Mao, but also a character in Chinese literature is called 'Three Mao.' I was very much inspired by Thomas Hardy's tragic novels, like *Jess of the A'Beraville* and *Jude the Obscure*. *Ethan Mao* is a Chinese-American-like movie title."

Lee, whose own beautiful feature phase is far from over, made the point that the film has resemblance between a movie and the life of the director.

—David Lamble



Jun Hee Lee as Ethan Mao



Photo courtesy of Asian Art Museum

Treasures from Southeast Asia

The Kingdom of Siam enchants at the Asian Art Museum

by Michael McDonagh

My relationship with Asian Art began early. My father's mother lived just off Fulton, so it was only natural that my parents, my sister, Grandma Mimi, and I would go to Golden Gate Park when we came to see her. We'd go to the Japanese Tea Garden with its mysterious Buddha, and the Avery Brundage Museum when it moved next door. We'd also visit my grandma's sister and her husband at Park Merced, who went to Thailand a lot and brought back beautiful gold things from there, and regaled us with slide shows of their visits to Bangkok's major temples. This was my first glimpse of the fabled East. I was hooked — Japan, China, Thailand

— but somehow, especially Thailand.

The Asian Art Museum's current show *The Kingdom of Siam: The Art of Central Thailand, 1350-1800* is an exquisite look at this little-known culture, the first major show of works from the lost kingdom of Ayutthaya (pronounced eye-you-tah-yuh) and the first one of Thai classical art in the US in more than 30 years. John Cromwell's *Anna and the King of Siam* (1946) with Irene Dunne and Rex Harrison (remade with Jodie Foster in '99) and Walter Lang's *The King and I* ('56) whetted our Western appetites. Though this show is certainly not Hollywood, it's even more mysterious than these romanticized depictions of this fabled land. One of the things that makes it mysterious is the fact that we don't know

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Men who would be seen with men

Intimate portraits of 19th-century same-sex connection

by Roberto Friedman

April showers may bring May flowers, but we're more interested in spring book releases like the paperback edition of *Dear Friends: American Photographs of Men Together, 1840-1918*, compiled by art historian **David Deitcher** (Abrams, \$17.95). These 108 photos show there was a lot of affection demonstrated physically and otherwise between men in the 19th century. Apparently, it was a love that dare not speak its name, but that did dare show up at the local photographer's studio to have pics snapped.

Not only portraits of couplehood, the bounty also includes photos of what look like sports teams, men's clubs, and a 1910 "Cowboy Dance Stag" postmarked on the verso, "Winner, S. Dak., Oct. 20 [illeg.]" Time has robbed posterity of any other identifying information, but we get it.

"Just as the passage of time has stripped these men of their identities, so exposure to light, which brought their image into being and now makes them visible, is causing them to fade from view," writes Deitcher. "Are some individuals more susceptible than others to interacting with old photographs in this way? I've long considered that gay men have a special franchise on this dismal sense of beauty. Perhaps knowing that no children of my own will survive to remember me contributes to my morbid attraction to these mementoes of forgotten men, caught in a moment of intimate connection."

Dear Friends won a Lambda Literary Award in 2001 for its hardcover edition.

Swan's way

We can never get enough swan items, and last week's gem about



Subjects unknown, inscription on verso reads, "Pearly Macy's friends."

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies roasting up that whooper swan just wasn't enough.

So here's irrefutable proof that Oscar-winning director **Vincente Minnelli** was gay, gay, gay. While filming *Gigi* on location in Paris, he had his star **Leslie Caron** perform "I Don't Understand the Parisians" in front of the reservoir, with graceful white swans swimming behind her. After the first take, Minnelli praised Caron's work, but asked her to do the number again. She did, and he again told her how wonderfully she did, but asked for another

take. Again she complied, and again he asked for a repeat. Finally, after the umpteenth shot, he exclaimed, "That's perfect! The swans were just right."

Cute spots

Best of *Gawker Stalker*: So you don't have to take time away from your busy workday to feed the beast, we read NYC stalker sightings for you. Spotted: "the useless, cute one from *Queer Eye* [ed: we're guessing **Jai Rodriguez**?] on *Bleecker*, talking about how he was presenting an award at one of those fun [sic] gay awards shows." "At the gym (Crunch on Lafayette) today, **Matt Damon** was exiting as I was entering, accompanied by a decidedly non-

celeb type (his personal trainer?). He had no gym bag with him, so I'm guessing he didn't want to give any of the gym's sizable gay clientele an eyeful in the locker room. God forbid someone other than **Affleck** offer him a blowjob!" One of life's little truisms we'd like to see embroidered on a pillow.

A proverbial little gossiping bird told us not to be surprised if that new Market Street cabaret room folds its tents and goes gently into the dark night sometime very soon. Word is the building has been put up for sale. We've seen some quick rises and falls in the wonderful world of the entertainment industry, but this one sure came fast.

The supersized April Fool's Day surprise People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (**PETA**) had in store for TV personality **Star Jones** was the unveiling of PETA's new "Fur Is a Drag" parody ad outside *The View* studios. The ad features six-foot-tall drag queen **Flotilla DeBarge**, "The Empress of Large," as a Jones clone in white fur-coat, hands dripping red. The super-catchy slogan is, "A fur on your back is blood on your hands." Jones, threatening to sue PETA over the ad, has said



Flotilla DeBarge in PETA parody

that the first thing she'd save in a fire is her mink. DeBarge counters, "I have a lovely acrylic coat that no acrylics had to die for."

What fab new queer TV program should perhaps look up the definition of the word "exclusive" before sending out many breathless e-mails trumpeting their "exclusive" **Scissor Sisters** interview? What does that make the

Out magazine Scissor Sisters interview, chopped liver? We guess it depends on what the meaning of sciss is.

Item: the celebration of what would have been late *SF Chron* columnist **Herb Caen's** 89th birthday this past

week. Angle: this old town sure does love a dead columnist!

Gangle: It's just like the dad of the dead gay high-school jock says in *Heathers*, "I love my dead gay son!" On the whole, dead people are so much easier to love than live ones. For one thing, they don't talk back. Mostly.

Coco puffs

Fortunately for *Out There*, **Miss Coco Peru** aka **Clinton Leupp** does talk back. The run of her one-woman show at New Conservatory has been such a smash hit she's been extended through April 10. Miss Coco had been warned that audiences could be tough in SF, "but that has not been my experience at all. Even the homeless have been sweet to me! I had a guy tell me on one of those rainy days, 'Your umbrella is as gay as fuck!' And looking up, I realized... it was!"

She's found that the best way to promote the show is to go out on the town as *Herself*. "I call it whoring my show, but it gives me an opportunity. I love the Eagle on Sundays! It was like I had died and gone to Heaven, only to find out that Heaven is full of hot homos! And barbecue!"

Now that she's found her fan

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Monstrous love

Silver's 'Beautiful Child' plays Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Can the worlds of Oedipus Rex and Ally McBeal exist in the same reality? They can, if that reality is being shaped by Nicky Silver. In *Beautiful Child*, the audacious gay playwright juggles dramatic temperaments of wildly differing shapes, and, perhaps inevitably, the resulting splats do start building up before the show is over.

But mostly he is able to carry us along on his strange journey. At least it's so in Theatre Rhino's unusually handsome set (by Erik Flatmo) and dramatically astute production. Director John Dixon has steered an able cast through mood swings that demand compatibility between plausible heart-break and absurd comedy.

The play opens in a familiar fashion, as a suburban husband and wife snipe at each other while the husband's secretary/mistress tries to maintain her place in the tottering triangle. But all this becomes small potatoes when their grown son, a schoolteacher, returns home looking for a safe haven.

Progressive parents, at least in terms of son Isaac's homosexuality, they cluck happily at the news he has fallen in love with a young fellow named Brian. The mood harshly changes when they find out just how young Brian is; he's one of Isaac's grammar school students.

Even as Isaac describes in po-



(L to r): Donald Currie, Matt Weimar, Adrienne Krug in *Beautiful Child*.

etic fashion how he and the boy discovered their mutual attraction, his parents withdraw the love that was supposed to be unconditional. But amidst this real torment, Silver continues to provoke laughter with both wry asides and situations that call to mind the daffy mix of fantasy and reality found on TV's *Ally McBeal*.

The *McBeal* connection arose, at least for me, specifically because of how much Libby O'Connell's secretary in the play reminded me of Jane Krakowski's secretary on *Ally McBeal*. That is meant as a compliment, for O'Connell creates and maintains a special little wacky world of her own for the character even when that character becomes a distraction from the main event.

As the parents, Donald Currie and Adrienne Krug are effective both dramatically and comically, and Matt Weimar brings an easy-going charm to the son who has been declared a monster. Ann Lawler shows up in a couple of roles, most effectively as a somewhat distracted therapist who treated Isaac as a boy.

And, maybe you ask, what about that Oedipus Rex reference in the lead? Well, you'll just have to see for yourself. ▼

Beautiful Child will run at Theatre Rhino through April 24. Tickets are \$15-\$28. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

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Desissyfication

'The Blue Dress' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

If every little boy who got into trouble for putting on a dress then grew up to write a show reclaiming his inner lady, all the world's theaters would be filled and they'd still have to build some more. In *The Blue Dress*, Bruce Bierman follows a familiar trajectory while at least taking us down a few new side-paths.

As a kid, Bierman shows us how he loved lip-synching to *Judy at Carnegie Hall*, playing the female leads in fairy-tale reenactments, and dressing up as Mary Poppins. Soon his parents had him seeing a therapist, but in this case, the therapist actually paid the patient. Little Bruce was too young to realize that he was part of a government-funded study of the relationship between childhood effeminacy and adult homosexuality. (The surprising results: There is a connection.)

The results of that study were published in 1987 by Dr. Richard Green as *The "Sissy Boy Syndrome" and the Development of Homosexuality*. Bierman's accidental discovery of the book and his realization of the reality of those sessions provide the dramatic impetus for the piece. Bierman acknowledges that he doesn't recall a lot from those trips to the doctor, but he suggests that they caused him to repress a vibrant self that led to an increasingly morose young adult.



Bruce Bierman shares his story.

"Food, pot, and cock" become his mantra until he likens himself to the Kafka character who turns into a supersized cockroach unable to get out of bed. Eventually, sharing his story becomes his therapy, leading to the 60-minute version at New Conservatory Theatre Center.

The Dr. Green angle often takes a back seat to a musical-comedy approach to Bierman's passions. He's pretty good at lip-synching, and key moments are expressed in the voices of various show-biz divas. They're also helpful in letting us warm up to a personality that has yet to fully shake off the dour aura of a sidetracked sissy boy. ▼

The Blue Dress will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through April 17. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.



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Three great directors take on 'Eros'

Wong Kar-Wai, Steven Soderbergh, Michelangelo Antonioni trilogy

by David Lamble

While by no means a cheat in the entertainment department, the new film *Eros* — actually a trilogy of films from three world-class directors — fails to truly develop its ambitious theme beyond the first story. That first film, *The Hand*, from Hong Kong master Wong Kar-Wai, is fortunately worth the price of the evening.

On a hot summer afternoon in 1963, a young man is summoned to the dark, womb-like apartment of a well-known courtesan, Miss Hua. Zhang is an apprentice tailor who's been given the daunting task of pleasing one of his boss' most important clients. The young man, already nervous, is doubly upset when he finds himself becoming aroused by the sounds of sex wafting through the walls of Miss Hua's bed-chamber as he waits in her parlor. Miss Hua, sensing his discomfort and noticing a barely concealed erection, commands the trembling tailor to "Take your pants off, or I'll tell your master."

While bearing an ironic similarity to Isabella Rossellini's knife-point invitation to a trembling Kyle MacLachlan in *Blue Velvet*, Miss Hua's only weapon is a cruel but precise ability to seduce and exploit men for her pleasure. Her hand between his thighs, Miss Hua taunts the young man,



Zhang (Chang Chen) and Miss Hua (Gong Li) star in *The Hand*.

"Never touched a woman before, have you? Then how can you be a tailor?" This minor act of sadism reverberates down through the decades as Zhang's unrequited

passion for Miss Hua grows while their relative positions in the world undergo a drastic reversal.

Wong Kar-Wai explains that he was moved to tell this story about

the effect on two lives of an act of touching in part by the SARS epidemic that was raging around the project in 2003. The filmmakers were warned to avoid touching each other by health authorities. A slight reference to these circumstances comes in a conversation that appears at both ends of the story, as the deathly ill Miss Hua greets her former tailor-turned-patron with a throaty warning: "You shouldn't have come, it's contagious."

The principal cast Chang Chen

(*Happy Together*) as Zhang and Gong Li (*Raise the Red Lantern*) as Miss Hua portray the ebb and flow of this most chaste of relationships through an inspired minimalism of gestures and vocal intonations. The tailor never seems to age, while the beauty of the once-ravishing Miss Hua fades as imperceptibly as the colors of an exquisite tapestry exposed for years to muted light. Director of photography Christopher Doyle allows this light to enter the frame

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Ethan Mao

◀ Arts cover

19-year-old Korean American actor who becomes Ethan Mao, is in any way important. Lee adds that Ethan Mao is a very risqué role, the kind of part that many actors duck, succumbing to the Hollywood syndrome of wanting the audience to love them.

He says he was actually looking for a loveable quality in the actor who plays Remigio, the street-savvy rent boy who hooks up with Ethan. "I don't want the typical tough, mean drug-dealer character. I want Remigio to be in some way almost innocent. He's doing it just because he's doing it." Lee adds that he chose to pick an actor of a different race from Ethan, but not necessarily too polarizing a difference, which a black or white actor might have presented. "That would say they're having relations because of the race difference. So I decided to cast a Latino or Filipino."

Seeking to create a gay Asian rebel icon, Lee wrote Ethan Mao as a formerly polite Chinese American teenager tossed out of his home when his stern father's new wife finds a male sex magazine under his bed. Ethan becomes a street hustler, taking his very wacky family hostage and to the brink of nuclear meltdown. It's a sexy comedy/drama of pretty boys testing the sincerity of first love while bedeviled by a hobgoblin funhouse of second marriages, angry dads, bullying half-brothers and very wicked stepmothers.

Hope chest

The Hong Kong-raised, Canadian-financed and American-situated Lee enjoys wrapping his black postmodern comedies on the urgency and fecklessness of young boy-love in time-war puzzles that leave you wondering whether you're watching the characters' lives or a hope chest of possible futures. An Asian-American festival audience at the Castro was roaring at many lines that critics often miss in professional screenings.

Lee, who comes across sounding a bit like a film studies professor, notes that audiences sometimes laugh out of nervousness, "and that was what I was going for. That level of an intelligent comedy makes you think about why you're laughing at it, and creates a critical distance between the audience and the film."

His earlier feature *Drift* took three fantasy laps around the pool of a young Asian American writer's desire to free himself from a dead love-bed. *Ethan Mao* is both a more and less straightforward attempt to diagram all the sources of the title kid's anger over his disinheritation by a grouchy father following the death of his beloved mother. Lee admits his



Writer/director Quentin Lee

"bad mom" issues. "My mother figures tend to reflect that difficult, flamboyant, narcissistic mom who isn't able to provide emotionally for the kids."

Gay kids often have their most serious issues with misguided dads, and the film's strongest suit is the dramatic tension between Ethan's estrangement from his Chinese-born father and his meeting a possible big brother/lover in the sexy drug-dealer Remigio.

Oddly enough, a misreading of the film by this writer and many festival audiences makes it an intriguing candidate for a second viewing. Many have mistakenly interpreted the episode in which Ethan and Remigio take his family hostage as having been a dream of Ethan's. Lee explains how he first conceived the story, and the changes he made in the film's ending on the advice of a friend.

"The original ending was more tragic than I intended, you actually see them getting shot. I showed it to a friend who actually got kicked out of his house, and he said it felt like everything that these two had gone through amounted to nothing. I took that to heart, and decided to make the ending more ambiguous, so the audience can decide what's going to happen to them."

"But ultimately, the movie is about teen angst and the fact that young gay Asian kids are still a little marginal because they're not the A-list that you want to date. That pressure creates a desire to conform. Taking one's family hostage is a kind of call to arms, saying, 'Don't worry about people liking you so much. Sometimes you just have to go out and kick some asses.'"

Beautiful mistake

Sporting a bright red "Everyone loves an Asian boy" T-shirt and a Clay Aiken spiky hairdo, Jun "Jun" Hee Lee, the only Asian kid in his St. Louis high school class, confesses to a mistake in his audition scene with co-star Jerry Hernandez that may have helped him nail

next page ►

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MUSIC

Susan Graham returns

Zellerbach Hall recital comes next Wed.

by Jason Victor Serinus

The sensual expressiveness of Susan Graham's heartfelt mezzo-soprano is hardly unknown in these parts. Indeed, the Schwabacher Career Grant that she received as a 1987 San Francisco Opera Merola program participant figures as prominently in her rise to fame as her Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions win and subsequent 1991 Met debut.

Every local appearance by the singer is cause for celebration. Her first of four San Francisco Symphony appearances was in 1991, when she performed excerpts from Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. By the end of the decade, her Berkeley debut recital drew such luminaries as Frederica von Stade and Jake Heggie to Hertz Hall. The friendship continued as she assumed the role of Sister Helen Prejean in San Francisco Opera's 2000 world premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's *Dead Man Walking*, a performance that brought tears to many in the audience. More recently, Graham wooed San Francisco Symphony audiences in 2001 with her sensual Chausson, and blew her gay fans away with an April 2003 Davies recital capped by the gay references in Ben Moore's hilarious Graham tribute, "Sexy Lady."

Graham's Wednesday evening Zellerbach recital, one of only two recitals she presents this season, should prove equally rewarding. Supported by her favored accompanist, the adorable Malcolm Martineau, Graham performs gay Francis Poulenc's *Quatre poèmes d'Apollinaire*, suspected gay Maurice Ravel's sensual and stunning *Chansons madoécasses*, and three movements from Hector Berlioz's inescapable *Les Nuits d'Été*. She also sings Jake Heggie's *The Deepest Desire*, based on texts by Sister Helen Prejean; five of the Ives songs she recorded on her 2005 Grammy-winning disc, and four songs from Gustav Mahler's marvelous *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.



Mezzo with innate warmth, beauty

Anyone wondering about the state of the 44-year-old mezzo's instrument need only listen to *Poèmes de l'Amour*, her latest Warner release. Supported by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Graham delivers beautiful renditions of Chausson, Ravel, and Debussy.

Graham has always been at her finest in French repertoire. To these ears, the reasons lie in the innate warmth and beauty of her instrument, whose sound seems to radiate from her heart center, and her affinity with the introspective sensuality of French impressionism.

Graham's mastery is heard to greatest advantage in the sensual passion of Ernest Chausson's extended three-movement *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*. Her presentation of the opening words, "The air is filled with the exquisite scent of lilacs/ whose blossoms cover walls from top to bottom/ and perfume women's hair," exudes such inner warmth as to make the heart melt.

Swept away

The energy soon changes, as Chausson, awestruck in the influence of Richard Wagner, swings between the heights of passion and the abyss of despair. As the expectant lover of the opening movement experiences the death of his love, Graham follows his every emotional swing.

Graham's voice rides the waves of Chausson's music as though she's the protagonist riding the crests of the sea. It's a gorgeous

performance, made all the more special by her ability to illuminate text, not with obvious verbal underscoring, but rather with powerful inner conviction and pluck tone. The mezzo's meltingly beautiful piano high notes recall the sweet power of Janet Baker's in her prime.

If Chausson rides the waves of passion, the 28-year-old Ravel's setting of three exotic poems by Tristan Klingsor surf way over the top. Every stereotype of Asian culture known to the West, from pot-bellied mandarins under parasols to princesses with slender hands, to executioners who chop heads with curved oriental swords, seems to surface in the opening movement.

The two shorter songs that end the work are more horizontal in nature; their sensuality is ideal for Graham's artistry. With Crespin's recording, I admired the unflinching beauty of tone and watched the counter on the CD; with Graham, I became engaged. Graham's Shéhérazade performance is wonderful preparation for the cooler exoticism of the *Chansons madoécasses* she has programmed for Los Angeles.

Claude Debussy's early *Cinq Poèmes de Charles Baudelaire* remains less known than his *Prose Lyriques* because these youthful efforts do not reveal the composer's full genius. Berkeley composer John Adams helps Debussy along by orchestrating four of the songs, but the influence of Wagner seems to inhibit Debussy from realizing his unique voice.

Five years after writing *Cinq Poèmes*, Debussy unveiled his far more distinguished *La Damselle élue* on the same Paris concert as Chausson's *Poème*. If the recital thus comes full circle, it has the ever-gratifying Graham and Tortelier's sympathetic support to thank for its success. ▼

Susan Graham and Malcolm Martineau perform Wed., April 13, 8 p.m. in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. For tickets, contact Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or see calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Ethan Mao

◀ previous page

the role of Ethan, as well as easing two straight-boy actors into their characters' strong erotic subtext.

"I actually kind of messed up in the callback. I had read the script and thought, 'Oh, this is the kissing scene.' So I said my line, and Jerry paused, and then I kissed him, which wasn't in the script." The bold kiss, very convincingly staged in the final film, actually served as an ice-breaker, and Hernandez recalls later telling his agent, "If I get picked for this, I hope to work with that guy again."

Juni and Jerry finish each other's sentences during our chat in a downtown hotel suite, joke about making Ethan Mao bobbleheads, and laugh as they recall "combat" moments during the shoot: the broiling LA heat the day they filmed a crucial car scene with the A/C off, their shirts clinging to their bodies in giant sweat-rings; or the hostage sequence when Jerry's Remigio is supposed to punch Juni's Ethan. Hernandez actually hit his co-star in the jaw

in two takes, prompting Juni to joke, "It's the method actor in him. I think he really wanted to slug me." Juni says the actor chosen to play the older John, who practically rapes Ethan in a car, played the scene rough, bumping Juni's head up against the car window, "making that moment feel very ferocious and raw onscreen."

Hernandez said his drug-dealer character was a nice change of pace from a diet of clean-cut kids, including a homophobic jock he played in a short film at Sundance. Juni feels he's often reduced to playing wannabe rap artists and other marginal-culture characters, which is funny considering his brief career fronting a failed Korean boy-band. *Ethan Mao* was one of the rare chances he's had to play the lead. "Everyone says I got it because I looked the most like Quentin."

Later, outside the hotel, dying for cigarette, Juni and I are both startled by how quickly a jive-talking street merchant offers a pack of smokes. Juni laughs and then starts studying the shadowy figure, as if soaking up body language, small gestures, a walk, the living cool of the street. ▼

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Go, speed racers!

'Dust to Glory' follows the Baja 1000 off-road race

by David Lamble

Director Dana Brown is the son of a pioneer. Dad Bruce Brown single-handedly invented the large-screen home movie, combining a big gulp of 16mm color film of the world's greatest surfing spots with an aw-shucks delivery. Brown was like a '60s DJ announcing the Beach Boys, only he was describing the boys themselves: pretzel-thin hunks who would sooner have stopped by the North Pole than step near a gym.

When I was a 22-year-old virgin sitting in a frosty East Side Manhattan movie palace, Bruce Brown's *The Endless Summer* became the California of my mind. You could practically smell the Coppertone suntan lotion mixing with the Vitalis-slicked-back hair of Brown's Promethean heroes, Robert August and Mike Henson. August and Henson (the brunet

and the blond) hopped a jet one mid-'60s November morning for Senegal on the West Coast of Africa, in search of waves that no one had ever surfed.

In *Swimming to Cambodia*, Spalding Gray labeled a very permissive strain of Buddhism he'd discovered among young Thai men as "sanug, which, loosely translated, means fun. If it isn't sanug, they won't touch it." It might be said that the Browns, father and son, have uncovered a very sanug-like culture among Sunbelt-raised American men, along with trace elements of a very latent homoeroticism.

Combine the unpretentious male bonding of *The Endless Summer* with the little-boy competitive zeal of *Broken Noses* boxers and mix in a *Mad Max*-like world of off-road vehicles racing across a desert slice of North America, and you have *Dust to Glory*, Dana Brown's breathless, sometimes hilarious, two-hour distillation of the Baja 1000, described by the filmmaker as "the longest non-stop, point-to-point race in the world." The race started in '67 when two feckless motorcyclists decided to test their mettle by roughing it the length of Baja, not for money or fame, but for their own high-octane brand of sanug. Some Mexican politicians saw the race as a perfect way to bring gringo tourist dollars to their still very undeveloped piece of California. The event attracts 1,200



Mike 'Mouse' McCoy (right) at the finish line of the Baja 1000 race.

racers, driving virtually every type of gasoline-powered vehicle from bikes to monster trucks to old-fashioned VW bugs, chugging across a desert course resembling the surface of the moon more than the asphalt of Daytona.

Brown calls the event a "Pony Express on steroids." Like most queers, I've never admired anything about auto-racing except an occasional glimpse of movie-star handsome Jeff Gordon. So I was surprised at how much I loved this macho lust in the dust, where the racers (including a rugged female corps) have 40 hours to pass 12 checkpoints. With father/son teams including a 16-year-old daredevil with a brand-new California driver's license "nurfing"

each other out of the way on a route marked by cactuses and sudden flash-floods, the Baja 1000 is more X-Games than NASCAR.

Like his dad, Dana Brown strings parallel stories together, with a jocular present-tense narration punctuated by a series of well-edited visual jokes. The most gripping story involves Mike "Mouse" McCoy's bid to solo his bike along the 1,000-mile course. After a desert breakdown threatens Mouse's chance to finish, Brown's helicopter-mounted cameras provide the awesome sight of McCoy racing another motorcyclist along a most gorgeous slice of beach washed by the Pacific surf. Suddenly, Baja has joined the California of my mind. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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 ©2005 PHOTO: David Allen

Supersized me

by Jim Piechota

How To Lose Your Ass and Regain Your Life by Kirstie Alley; Rodale Press, \$23.95

Star of the silly, self-deprecating new reality television show *Fat Actress*, Kirstie Alley expands her re-entrance into the Hollywood spotlight (after the short-lived *Veronica's Closet*) with this memoir of sorts that's not quite as funny as it should be.

Beginning when she was a little girl with big dreams growing up in Wichita, Kansas, Alley's life has been an unending series of ups and downs. Her childhood years carefully dictated by a perfectionist mother, she grew into her beauty slowly and was dubbed the "girl with the bedroom eyes" by predatory modeling agencies in her teens. Next came her introduction to Scientology. By the time she discovered the joys of living life on Valium and cocaine (effortless weight-loss, boundless energy) as well as the pitfalls (gaunt face, relentless addiction), she was sinking in and out of movie and television roles with ease and skill.

Weaved throughout her life story are diary entries on her current struggles with weight loss and self-esteem issues leading up to the pitch and subsequent premiere of her new television series, which is much funnier than this memoir. But the book does have its moments. Her first date with a man, until his wife walked in; her initiation to car sex ("I tossed the rubber over my right shoulder; I'd forgotten to roll down the window"), and her trials with an



Kirstie Alley was once a little girl with big dreams in Wichita, Kansas.

herbal laxative on LA's 101 freeway prove to be the most hilarious segments of the book.

Today, Alley gushes that through all of the "social brutality" she's endured, she has emerged a pseudo-fully-functioning adult with two children and a million-dollar contract with Jenny Craig. She's got a new lease on life and a hysterical Showtime series — even though it's irritatingly peopled with all of her Stepford-ish Scientologist pals.

Though Alley comes across as

a genuinely nice person, there's a sense that the more revealing personal honesty, the stuff reality buffs crave, has been reserved for her psychiatrist. Throughout the book, she's constantly tripping over herself in an attempt to shroud the obvious hurt she feels with crude humor. If you look closely enough at Alley's situation and read between her book's lines, you might catch a glimpse of the crestfallen little girl crouching just behind the soul of this jubilant, deceptively chatty, fat actress. ▼

Meanwhile, in God's waiting room

Senior citizens meet junior staff in 'Assisted Living' at Roxie Cinema

by David Lamble

Elliot Greenebaum — try growing up with that handle in Louisville, Kentucky — has the distinction of having made a truly fine movie on a subject nobody really wants to see a movie about. *Assisted Living* (the title has an odd Noel Coward ring to it) joins Gus Van Sant's *Elephant* and Ira Sachs' *The Delta* in the twilight zone between documentary and pure fiction. In the opening-credit shots, some people who look like they actually work in what used to be called an "old folks' home" start talking earnestly about their jobs. Already, I'm reaching for the remote.

But then Todd walks into the picture. Todd (the wonderful, loose-limbed New York stage actor Michael Bonsignore) is belching smoke when we first encounter him. He's the human equivalent of an old jalopy: unreliable, never starts or shows up on time. But he isn't old, and he does, it turns out, have a mission, albeit one that greatly annoys the rest of the home's staff, especially its grouchy Bubba of a manager.

Todd is bad at the things he's paid to do: mopping floors, getting 80-year-old wheelchair-bound residents to bingo, seeing that their dogs don't run off. Yet he has a talent for relating to the old people. For some of the women, he's like a surrogate son



Michael Bonsignore, who plays Todd, and Maggie Riley, who plays Mrs. Pearlman, share a candid moment.

— he actually pretends to be their sons, or to be God, on the phone. Some of the old people believe him, and that's the rub. Todd isn't trying to scam them out of money, but, like the angels in *Wings of Desire*, he is looking out for them. But also, like the actor who plays Christ in *Jesus of Montreal*, he discovers that it really

hurts to hang from a cross, and that the feelings you invoke in others can come back and bite.

Todd's meltdown — *Assisted Living* poses as a mockumentary of his last day at work — involves a charismatic old lady named Mrs. Pearlman (a richly intuitive portrait of a woman losing her mind by marvelous, theatre-trained ac-

tress Maggie Riley). Mrs. Pearlman admits to be floating through the early stages of Alzheimer's, and she's after Todd to help her connect to a son she claims is living in Australia. At one point, Todd allows Mrs. Pearlman to believe he's the son who's promised to return and whisk her off to a better life in the land Down Under

— a land where you need powerful, wrap-around sunglasses, like the pair she's won by cheating at bingo.

Just as in *The Delta*, where a forbidden erotic moment between a white Southern boy and a dark-skinned Vietnamese youth sends life-forces spinning out of control, Todd and Mrs. Pearlman's "trip to Australia" threatens every rule that governs the lives of the *Assisted Living* inmates.

Writer/director Greenebaum (he was 22 when he started shooting) creates a surreal world out of the living clay of the real-life staff and residents of the Masonic Homes in Kentucky. It almost feels like a parallel universe to the dead-end high school in *Elephant*. An ambient musical score by composer Hub Moore becomes a hallucinatory equivalent to all the joints that Todd inhales with such relish. *Assisted Living* is the best movie since *Wonder Boys* to convey how marijuana helps some people cope.

Filmmaker Greenebaum doesn't tip his hand about where he might stand in the current debate between the right to die and the culture of life, but watching his intoxicating comedy-drama about the denizens of God's waiting room is bound to help you get a grip. Or, as my favorite Southern writer, Flannery O'Connor, once put it in the title to a darkly funny short story, the life you save may be your own. Now playing at the Roxie Cinema. ▼

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Lucky Pierre

Boulez's 80th birthday noted on CD

Tim Pfaff

It probably would have been dangerous to be a fly on the wall in the room with Pierre Boulez, say, 50 years ago, if someone told him that the major event marking his 80th birthday celebration would be a five-CD release by the world's premier classical label. Death by rolled-up *Le Monde* — or, more likely (and savagely), a draft page of a piano sonata — in the hands of the angry young man would surely have been its fate.

Boulez, who turned 80 on March 26, was hell-bent on saving music from itself, from being turned into a dandy in aspic, and the idea that his music would be celebrated in a form impermeable to change would most likely have set off a polemic. Anyone who had to declare that his god, Arnold Schoenberg, was dead — for not having gone far enough with the formula (the much-maligned serialism) that could set music free — and who famously declared that the solution to the "problem" of opera was to burn down the opera houses — would not have

gone silently into a digital night.

He hasn't, of course, as DG's commemorative discs (the one of Mahler Songs has already been reviewed here) have made abundantly clear. Say what you want about his music or his music-making — and there's nothing that hasn't been said already — there's no denying that, greatest composer or not, Boulez is the most acute musical intelligence of our time, its most singular transforming and transformative genius. No other individual has been a stronger influence on the art music of today. It's not always been pleasant, and neither has he (though reports have it he's turned to a charm offensive), but there remains no stronger force in music today.

People who don't hate his music sound unheard usually find it bracing and yes, even beautiful. Among my 10 peak musical experiences was his performance of *Repons* leading his Ensemble Intercontemporain in San Francisco in the '80s.

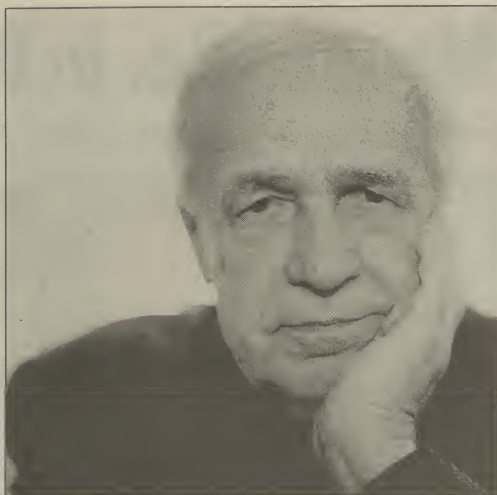
In his terse screed for a set of 80th-birthday reflections by fellow composers in the British *Guardian*, 96-year-old Elliott Carter, one of the few musicians who fall outside the long shadow Boulez casts, squeezed out this: "The efforts of Pierre Boulez have revolutionized not only the music life of France, but that of many other places in the world," emphasizing, with his usual precision, "efforts" rather than achievements. To mollify the faint praise, Carter added, "His compositions are an inspiration to us all."

Well, not to John Adams, who continued Carter's get-back game with a smart-aleck, self-aggrandizing screed that attempted to grab the "revolutionary" crown away from his illustrious superior: "Despite having lived through an era of earth-shattering revolutions in the world of vernacular culture, including the flowering of jazz and rock, [Boulez] remained either aloof, cool or just plain tone deaf to all of the richness and vitality that the 'vulgate' has to offer." That had to be the first time "tone deaf" was applied to Boulez, who, by universal assent, has the keenest — some would say most tyrannical — ear in the profession.

B.A.R. readers deserve to know that Boulez has also taken his lumps for his discretion about being gay. Since the same could be said about the more flamboyant Leonard Bernstein, and all his disciples I know, it's a charge that rings particularly hollow. Gay people would be wiser to claim than to blame him.

Irresistible urge

The price he has paid for his successes only indicates how towering they have been. The price he



Anyone willing to supply the concentration will fall under Boulez's spell.

now commands as a performer is earned compensation for being one of the few people in history who has composed for the reason the common folk Adams flogs him with still think composers do what they do: because they must, not because they collect fat commissions.

Most of the DG CDs focus on Boulez's own music, beginning with the now 50-year-old *Marteau sans maître*, the work that made him Boulez. This fourth recording by Boulez himself (but the first in 20 years) finds the work as brave, fresh, and malleable as when it was new, and performed with unprecedented punch and finesse by the Ensemble Intercontemporain — arguably his single greatest gift to the music world — and its greatest alto soloist to date, Hilary Summers.

That 1984's *Dérive 1*, for six instruments, and *Dérive 2* (1988, rev. '02) stand up in the wake of this masterpiece of the last century is strong tribute to their vitality. A pianist who did some of his most seminal thinking at the instrument, Boulez has handed The Three Piano Sonatas to an astounding, 31-year-old Finn, Paavali Jumppanen, whom Boulez considers the player who best "gets" the pieces. While Boulez never played the fearsome Second Sonata in public, and Yvonne Loriod, the new-music specialist and future wife of Boulez's teacher, Olivier Messiaen, burst into tears when given the score to learn, it has had some great proponents.

Still, to date, no one else has entered into these fiercely concentrated works with the relaxed authority of Jumppanen — the best measure of which is the sense he leaves that his constitute just one possible view of these dense musical landscapes.

If you're a Boulez beginner, consider starting with *...explosante-fixe...*, the 1991-'93 flute concerto (an approximate term) that is the most recent composition on these CDs, and the most prepossessingly beautiful. The piece is the most recent version of

one that has been in the works for more than 20 years (Boulez's compositions are by definition works-in-progress). The "exploding" in its title captures the unbridled energy of the work, as three flutes, a midi flute (Sophie Cherrier) and two acoustic ones (Emmanuelle Ophéle and Pierre-André Valade) work their way out of what program annotator Paul Griffiths aptly describes as a musical "hall of mirrors," supplied by the Ensemble Intercontemporain playing at its peak. The shimmering, propulsive score is dense enough that it does not reveal all its wonders at once. However, even on first hearing, anyone willing to supply the concentration is likely to fall under its spell.

The CD it closes begins with two earlier works, the solo-piano *Notations* of 1945, rendered with pinpoint precision and kaleidoscopic colors by Pierre-Laurent Aimard. He joins Florent Boffard for the even more advanced Book II of the *Structures pour deux pianos* of 10 years later, a work whose world premiere Boulez played with a dry-eyed Loriod.

Of all 20th-century composers, Bartók needs the least "resurrecting," though no one has done more penetrating work with the Hungarian composer's scores than Boulez. His CD of the *Three Piano Concertos*, which he considers at the core of Bartók's work, features three pianists with three orchestras: Krystian Zimerman (Jumppanen's last teacher) with the Chicago Symphony for the First, Leif Ove Andnes and the Berlin Philharmonic for the Second, and Hélène Grimaud with the London Symphony Orchestra for the Third. The CD is a testimony to the acuity of the playing that Boulez universally draws from whatever musical forces he faces. Andnes, who does his best work in Bartók, gives his finest performance on disc. The groundbreaking First is the prize in the set, but all three of these pillars of the piano literature have rarely emerged with such clarity and power. ▼

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Out There

◀ page 30

base, Miss Coco assures OT she will return. "I can't wait to come back with another show, I'm hooked on this city!"

We're not honestly sure there's still tickets, but NCTC box office is (415) 861-8972.

Queer 'toons

Queer cartoonists will speak

out at this year's Alternative Press Expo (APE), coming April 9-10 to the Concourse, 620 7th St. in SF. APE's second annual Queer Cartoonists Panel will feature as panelists LGBT comix talent **Paige Braddock** (*Jane's World*), **Jennifer Camper** (*Juicy Mother*, *subGURLZ*), **Charles 'Zan' Christensen** (*PRISM Comics*), **Leanne Franson** (*Liliane*), **David Kelly** (*Boy Trouble*, *Steven's Comics*) and **Robert Triptow** (*Gay Comix*, *Strip AIDS USA*),

and the panel will be moderated once again by **Justin Hall** (*True Travel Tales*).

The comix creators promise to engage in free-ranging discussions on sexuality and identity in their art, the place of queer creators in the comic book world, and the sources of their inspiration. APE's Queer Cartoonists Panel takes place on Saturday, April 9, from 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. To find out more, visit the APE website at www.comic-con.org/ape. ▼

Night and day at the symphony

Different conductors bring differing strengths to programs

by Philip Campbell

Two conductors as different as night and day have led somber-themed concerts at Davies Symphony Hall in recent weeks. Their programs and interpretations were also greatly contrasted.

David Robertson is a youngish American maestro with an even more youthful stage presence. His previous appearances in San Francisco have featured a mixture of old and new repertoire, and his visit two weeks ago followed the same formula.

The big event of the evening, or what should have been the centerpiece, was the world premiere of a San Francisco Symphony commission. John Thow's *Bellini Sky*, essentially a concerto for English horn written especially for Julie Ann Giacobassi, received its first performances to generally favorable effect.

The score is pretty and atmospheric, and not so modern as to challenge the listener unduly. Of course, the challenge to the English hornist is considerable. How fortunate for Thow to have a player as sympathetic and talented as Giacobassi to argue his case. The English horn deserves a larger showcase repertoire. Thow's piece makes good use of its many moods.

The concerto is named for the Venetian painter, not the more famous Italian opera composer. This is a Bellini of shadow and exquisitely colored backgrounds. All can be found in Thow's music. It is lovely, fleeting and ultimately not overly inspiring. Still, Giacobassi gave it her considerable best, and it was a pleasant listen.

Robertson opened with the virtually unknown "Funeral March in Memory of Richard Nordraak" by Edvard Grieg. It was a dark, interesting curtain-



Youthful maestro David Robertson

raiser, but it made a balance with the second half of the bill, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*.

The conductor elicited a clean, unfussy sound for Tchaikovsky's agonized final symphonic statement, but he appeared unwilling to emotionally explore the darker underside of the first three movements, or the remarkably bleak finale.

It became a *Pathétique* that was more of an orchestral showpiece ending in a sad mood. I suppose we can live with that, since the work has been heard so many times before, and will be again. The orchestra played well, and that famous false ending at the end of the Third Movement received the usual premature applause.

How much more satisfying it might have been, however, if Robertson had shed his naturally self-effacing manner and really opened the floodgates for the finale. Sprightly is not a word I ordinarily associate with the *Pathétique*.

Eminent visitor

Last week brought a much sterner, more powerful presence

to the podium at Davies, and the SFS musicians clearly appeared ready and willing to follow every daunting command.

At 78, Kurt Masur has morphed from a saturnine, physically imposing middle age to a frailer, more ascetic gray eminence. He still looks strong and vital, but his sudden lunges and fits of impassioned fury onstage are softened by a kinder visage and more spiritual aspect.

His choice of material was weighty and soul-searching as well. The opening Mozart Symphony No. 36, *Linz*, made perfect sense on a program that was also to feature that city's equally famous composer Anton Bruckner.

"Big band Mozart" was championed by Herbert von Karajan in the '70s, with his homogenized (downright creamy) string tone and large-scale playing by a full symphony orchestra. It was and remains a satisfying approach to the heavier pieces.

Naturally, Mozart is also full of humor and unexpected wit, so a lithe and cutting edge is helpful when coming at him with a lot of players. Masur solved the problem by keeping the speeds steady and modulating the sound with a light heart. It was unusually pleasing while also sounding rich.

The Bruckner Symphony No. 9 remained unfinished at the composer's death, but like that other famous *Unfinished*, it is perfect as it stands. When Michael Tilson Thomas conducted the original version here a few years ago, he added the *Te Deum*, as Bruckner suggested, in lieu of a finale. Masur left it bare, and it was more effective his way.

The inexorable tread, the sudden blasts of glory and flashes of light that pervade the entire Brucknerian canon are abundant throughout the Ninth, but the missing end is all about the silencing of death, and it makes the



Powerful maestro Kurt Masur

symphony uncommonly moving and painfully thoughtful.

Masur's twilight reflections and last-gasp stabs at an unwillingness to "go gentle into that good night" imbued his interpretation with a focus and ruminative clarity that Bruckner needs in order to avoid meandering. When the composer gets this kind of performance, one can hear the valuable lessons learned and digested from Wagner, as well as the influence he was to exert later on Mahler.

It was a breathless and breathtaking experience. When the first enthusiastic audience member broke into wild applause after a long, deeply touching moment of silence, he immediately stopped, embarrassed by his seeming insensitivity. Masur turned and graciously nodded his assent as if to say, "It's okay, we wanted your hands as much as your ears."

The orchestra played wonderfully, with special tributes to the cellos and horns. The four Wagnerian tubas lent a fascinating sound. Masur returns this week with a program of Schnittke and Brahms. Robertson returns in May with Bernstein and Haydn. ▼

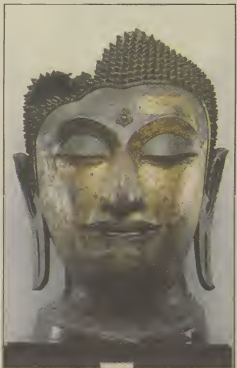
Kingdom of Siam

◀ Arts cover

much, almost nothing really, about Ayutthaya's founding, which was written down much later as a kind of legend before it vanished into history and myth when the Burmese destroyed it in 1767. So the kingdom disappeared as precipitously into its jungle as that of the Maya, whose objects, like these, continue to live.

And what objects. Of lacquer, wood, mother of pearl, glass, sandstone, brass, bronze, rubies, and gold. The delicate manuscripts are, of course, encased. The show's up-close-and-personal display of most of the rest as free-standing things — especially in its first, blue-grey gallery, which has lots of Siamese Buddhas and Hindu deities — makes you feel like you know them. You don't, of course, yet it's a clever ploy to make you think you do.

Siam's brand of Buddhism emphasized the fact that Prince Siddhartha had many incarnations before he gained full Buddhahood under that bodhi tree, and there are many charming examples here. The inclusion of Indian deities like Ganesha shows the cross-pollination and co-existence of religio-cultural tradi-



Head of Buddha (c. 1500-1600)

tions, and the mutual respect they seem to have engendered in this very cosmopolitan kingdom. Indeed, the video shown in the space between the show's two galleries emphasizes how this continues in contemporary Ayutthaya, though a very popular mosque, seen far off, is commented on almost dismissively.

The second gallery stresses the active commerce that the kingdom had with trading partners in France, Portugal, Holland, Japan, China, Burma, India and Persia, and the lacquered pieces with their depictions of Europeans re-

minded me of how the Japanese saw Westerners like the Portuguese and Admiral Perry in their art. The Indian and Persian textiles show the exquisite sensibilities behind this art, as do the homegrown manuscripts recounting Ayutthaya's history and Buddhist lore.

We like to think of ourselves in good old America as the very first multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and sometimes multi-faith culture on the face of the earth. This landmark show is a subtle but resounding corrective to that stare-at-your-navel view, a necessary one in this turbulent and often ignorant age. The Asian's *Kingdom of Siam* is educational alright, and sensuous, too. The museum's new digs are fine enough, but a show like this, serene as it is, cries out for more of same. Its old digs in Golden Gate Park had a view over the Japanese Tea Garden, with its resplendent maples. What do you get here? A view of the employee parking lot. Well, that's postmodern life for you. Still, this show's a stunner, and if foot traffic's factored in, probably a cash cow. Plus, the catalog's beautifully designed, and a great read, too. ▼

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APRIL 7 - 13

PACO

Life, death and the papacy on TV

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The majority of prime-time TV series deal in one way or another with death: crime dramas and medical shows. News programs deal with death from real-life crime, war, accidents and other tragedies. What we don't see televised is real dying. On TV, dying is usually quick and seemingly painless. By the time the *Law & Order* or *CSI* teams turn up, the dead person is little more than a body in a bloodied chalk outline.

Such was not the case in the very public dying of both Terri Schiavo and Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul II. The deaths of these two people have dominated the news, saturated cable TV and pre-empted network programming for nearly two weeks, longer than any other story since the election last November.

One understands the focus on the death of John Paul II. He was the third-longest reigning Pope in papal history, spiritual leader of the world's 1.8 billion Catholics and a political figure of tremendous weight who helped propel the Solidarity movement in Poland that began the domino-effect end to Communism in Eastern Europe.

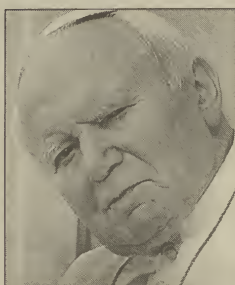
The Terri Schiavo TV brought us as a Catholic girl-next-door from Philadelphia who married her high school sweetheart. A girl who, like millions of other American girls, had an eating disorder. A girl whose heart stopped because of a potassium imbalance caused by her bulimia when she was a pretty, vivacious 26-year-old and the love of her husband Michael's life.

As the endless TV reportage explained, for 15 years she lay, virtually brain-dead according to a myriad of medical reports, hooked up to life-support after being brought back from the dead. After a seven-year court battle, her husband, who once lay in her hospital bed with her for weeks on end trying to will her

back to life, succeeded in having her life-support disconnected.

Terri Schiavo garnered more TV time than the Pope in the past two weeks in her ghastly miniseries about the American way of death and just how brutal it can be. From March 18, when her feeding tube was disconnected, to March 31, when she died, Schiavo was the primary, sometimes sole news story in the US. Yet in that time there was much other news being reported outside the US: close to 300 deaths due to the war were reported in Iraq, new reports on torture by the US in Iraq were revealed, a scathing report on how inept and out of touch the US system of intelligence was presented, famed civil rights attorney Johnnie Cochran died, questionable elections in Zimbabwe were held and there was a 9.2 earthquake in the region where close to a half-million people were killed by the tsunami last December. Still, the only news deemed of import on TV was the impending death of Terri Schiavo.

The contrast between the death of the Pope and that of Schiavo was stunning. The Pope died with a dignity befitting his station and the way he had lived his life. Did he suffer? Absolutely: as TV reports declared in the last weeks of his life, he was in constant and fairly intractable pain, he was unable to swallow, he had repeated fevers and infections, and ultimately, one of those infections caused the septicemia and organ failure that killed him on April 2. John Paul II was determined to let the world see him dying, to see what the end of life looks like. Yet he maintained a level of serenity and dignity until his final breath. He refused to go to the hospital, preferring to die at home, his papal apartment at the Vatican. At his deathbed were his



Dignity despite suffering.

closest comrades from his days in the Polish church so many years ago. It was the kind of death, despite the suffering, most of us would want.

When Pope John Paul II breathed his last, and the papal correspondent announced his death to the near half-million crowd of faithful outside his apartment, anyone watching could say, this was indeed a good death.



Lavender Tube

Not so for poor Schiavo, whose tortured visage was shown over and over on TV. She became, without her knowledge or consent, a media tool and a pawn for politicians and misguided religious fanatics who not only made her last days a gruesome circus, but destroyed any hope of a peaceful death for all the other patients in the Pinellas Park, Florida hospice. If ever there was a death one would not wish on anyone, it would be hers. The spectacle had fanatics and disability activists lying in the roadway, Rev. Jesse Jackson and other clerics pontificating and a host of religious and political zealots chanting.

Vital signs

The plethora of information that has poured out in TV specials and news reports since the Pope's death has been fascinating. Catholicism is a 2,000-year-old religion, and the papacy an institution that has withstood crusades, wars, inquisitions, the Borgias, internal schisms, pedophile scandals and other traumas that might have sundered a less-grounded system. Viewing the detailed exploration of that rich and complex history, and seeing the auto-

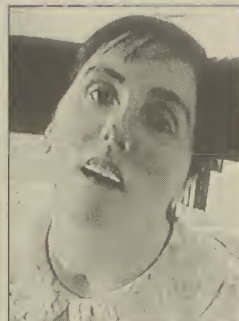
biography of one of the most complex and vital popes in history have been captivating; TV at its best.

Without the documentary footage shown from the moment of his death to now, we might have forgotten what a virile, athletic man the Pope was when, at a very youthful 58, the cardinal from Krakow was elected the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. Seeing the footage of him touring the world and embracing the myriad nations that had been little more than missionary outposts was incredibly moving. TV reports from historians detailed the contradictions between Karol Wojtyla and Pope John Paul II, between the young man who narrowly escaped being sent to Auschwitz by the Nazis and felt driven, after witnessing Stalin's genocides, to help overthrow Communism and promote human rights worldwide, and the Pope who could not budge on headline doctrine to embrace women and queers as full citizens of the Church.

The saga of the papacy will continue in coming weeks. The College of Cardinals will choose a new pope, and the TV cameras will be there to capture the white or black smoke that will come with the first balloting. The drama of it makes for exciting TV, even for non-Catholics. The secrecy is enticing, the history-in-the-making enthralling. This is the sort of thing that TV does so completely compellingly.

TV networks and cable news made the Schindlers stars of their own reality-TV show. The battle between Schiavo's husband and family, scenes of the protesters outside the hospice, the press conferences held by Gov. Bush and the angry commentary by Republican Congressional Majority Leaders Sen. Frist and Rep. DeLay — all of it made Americans who saw the drama play out on TV think they knew Schiavo personally, and, as if this were *American Idol*, that they had a say in deciding her fate. TV made us all part of what should have been a private tragedy. Government intervention abetted that perception.

With the help of TV (most egregious offender: CNN), grandstanding politicians and religious zealots, the Schindlers succeeded in demonizing Michael Schiavo and turning their own daughter into a televised sideshow freak. At about the time a new pope will be



Tortured visage as media tool.

elected, the results of Schiavo's autopsy will be made public, and the crescendo will repeat on the news. Schiavo is dead, but she has yet to rest in peace.

In the heat of the Schiavo frenzy, the networks and cable repeatedly presented "both sides" of the case, implying that those sides are equivalent. They are not. ABC and other polls indicated a majority of Americans, more than 75%, were appalled by the government overstepping, and thought, as the courts did, that Michael Schiavo, not the Schindlers, should determine Terri's fate. In attempting balance, the networks actually skewed the reality. This was no red state/blue state debate. It was a debate between a handful of screamers and a far larger but less vocal majority.

The juxtaposition between the breathtaking beauty of St. Peter's Basilica and the tawdry scene outside the Pinellas Park hospice is one that should not go unremarked. The calm of a half-million outside the Basilica versus the chaos created by a few scores of protestors in Pinellas Park contrasts opposing views about reverence for life, but also contrasts the perspective of the media. The grotesqueries in the coverage of the Schiavo case versus the elegance and restraint with which John Paul II's passing was covered point out just how manipulative TV news can be, just how perilous the journey toward death can get.

As John Paul II's and Terri Schiavo's stories begin to recede from their place of dominance in the news, TV has forced us all to consider our own mortality, and how we can make it a passing in dignity or one in ignominy. Stay tuned. ▼

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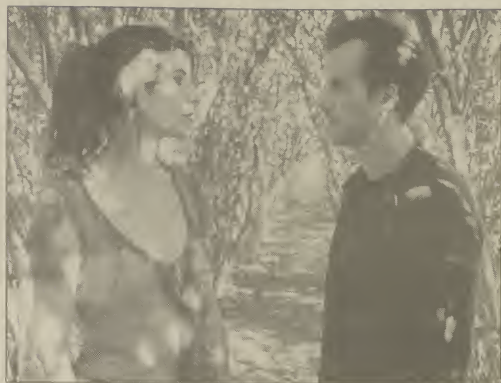
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Michelangelo Antonioni's *The Dangerous Thread of Things* is a trifle.

Eros trilogy

◀ page 32

of his favorite collaborator's films. Gong Li's voices fades from a jaded rebuke to a ghostly whisper, as outside a gentle rain falls.

Dream time

The second act of *Eros*, Steven Soderbergh's *Equilibrium*, changes the mood in the room as the palate might be affected by a delicate pâté and fine wine followed closely by a course of moose steak. Don't get me wrong: Soderbergh is at his impish best in this fable about a high-powered adman, Nick Penrose (Robert Downey, Jr.), who lies back on the couch of a rather eccentric psychiatrist, Dr. Pearl (Alan Arkin), to find the meaning of a dream that could destroy his marriage. Shot in an austere, almost pixilated black-and-white that conceals the actors' identities until either our eyes adjust or Soderbergh gives in and adds definition to Dr. Pearl's office, the film is enlivened by a running physical gag. Dr. Pearl starts to look out the window through a tiny pair of binoculars, finally replacing them with a larger pair, while Downey's Penrose drones on about a campaign to reinvent the alarm clock, interspersed with descriptions of a dream about sex with a strange woman. *Equilibrium* overflows with the lacerating wit of two master straight-men, splicing a shaggy-dog story about the invention of the snooze alarm with our memory that Soderbergh began his career with a prudish woman's confessions to her shrink in 1989's *sex, lies, and videotape*.

Eros is a cinema farewell to Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni, incapacitated for two decades by a paralyzing stroke. Antonioni's effort is a trifle, carved out by his veteran writing partner Tonino Guerra from a collection of the director's short fiction, *The Dangerous Thread of Things*.

Illustrating Antonioni's belief that modern men and women can't communicate, the film, which even the production notes concede is plotless, shows us the last stages of a bitter marriage between an American man and an Italian woman, both in their early 40s. This story, which is not helped by scenes of ennui-inducing obligatory nudity, finally collapses in a heap at the feet of two well-endowed naked women (the wife and the next-door neighbor with whom the husband has just slept).

So bored was I at the sight of unmotivated naked flesh that I tried to recall a time when this director's long scenes didn't put me to sleep. I bought a copy of 1974's *The Passenger*, starring a rakishly youthful Jack Nicholson as a British TV journalist who mysteriously switches identities with a dead stranger in a hotel in the

African desert. While at times as slow-moving as the shifting desert sands, *The Passenger* climaxes in a hypnotically haunting tracking shot, moving out from the room of another dead character. While *The Passenger* illustrates Antonioni's idea that moderns are alienated from their essential selves by an overabundance of meaningless material objects, *The Dangerous Thread of Things* merely becomes another one of those objects. *Opens Friday.* ▼

Man power

Don't write off male singer/songwriters

by Gregg Shapiro

I took John Mayer's dual win at the 47th annual Grammy Awards as a signal for male singer/songwriters that music-lovers hadn't totally written them off for songwriters who write by committee. Add to that the fact that Bright Eyes (aka Conor Oberst) cracked the Billboard Top 10 in February 2005 with *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning* (Saddle Creek), and you may have the beginnings of a musical revolution. *Wide Awake*, one of two new Bright Eyes discs, remains faithful to the Bright Eyes mythology, calling attention to Oberst's modern Americana roots sensibilities. Heck, he even has Emmylou Harris, My Morning Jacket's Jim James, and Norah Jones collaborator Jesse Harris assisting him to ground that connection. Oberst walks a fine line between youthful exuberance (he's 24) and experience (he's been making records

for 10 years), which means that when he tries to be profound, he succeeds as often as he fails. But I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt, especially given the impact of songs such as "Train Under Water," "We Are Nowhere and It's Now," "Land Locked Blues" and "Poison Oak."

Digital Ash in a Digital Sun (Saddle Creek), the second of the new Bright Eyes discs, is an electronic effort. While I was hoping for something along the lines of something by Magnetic Fields (a project of another prolific musician, Stepin Merritt), the album actually comes closer to the admirable yet misunderstood electro offerings of Bob Mould. I admire Oberst for being willing to experiment and expand his boundaries, as he does on "Take It Easy (Love Nothing)" and "Arc of Time." Like many young artists, even those who have been at it a while, Oberst may be lacking the necessary editing skills. There's also the instant gratification issue to deal

with. Just because you wrote these songs and can record them and get them out there relatively quickly doesn't necessarily mean that it's a good idea.

Like Oberst, Samuel Beam writes and records under another moniker. As Iron & Wine, Beam has established himself as a force on the neo-folkie circuit. With *Woman King* (Sub Pop), Beam's Iron & Wine went the opposite direction of Oberst's Bright Eyes. This neo-bluesy six-song EP, while more filled out than previous discs, still maintains Iron & Wine's status via ambitious but never excessive numbers like the title track.

I have no doubt that when it comes time to compile my end-of-the-year best-of list, *Nashville* (Rykodisc) by Josh Rouse will have a place of honor on it. Rouse lost me, temporarily, after the release of his acclaimed *Home* disc in 2000, but quickly regained my admiration with the stunning

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On a par with the best folk musicians of all time: Cheryl Wheeler

'Defying Gravity'

One of the great female folk singers of our time, Cheryl Wheeler, came to Berkeley's famed Freight & Salvage last week for a concert, accompanied by pianist/vocalist Kenny White, and thanks to a last minute call from San Francisco singer/songwriter Mark Weigle, I was lucky enough to be in the audience for a mighty fine show with great music and Wheeler's down-home comic flair.

I've long been an avid fan of folk music in the Bay Area where we have such local stand-out lesbian folk artists as Kenni and Co. and Lisa Alice, but Wheeler blew me away. She's seasoned from many albums and much touring over a long career, and it was my luck, thanks to Weigle, to hear her perform material both from her prior repertoire and from her outstanding new album, *Defying Gravity* (Philo/Rounder Records). It was all new to me, but for Weigle it was pure nectar to hear the first new Wheeler album since her 1999 release, *Sylvia Hotel*. Weigle has been a hard-core Wheeler fan for most of her career (she recorded her first EP, *Newport Songs*, in 1983), and he was swooning through much of the show. This is the first tour she's done since she and her partner, Kathleen, got married officially in their home state of Massachusetts.

The opening act was Kenny White, Wheeler's pianist, stepping out on his own in support of his new solo album, *Symphony in 16 Bars*, and he earned a standing ovation — a rarity for any opening act anywhere. With an incredible nimbleness on keyboards and guitar, and a voice as evocative as Paul Simon's, he reeled off several songs that demonstrated why he's a sensation in his home town, New York City. He has an extraordinary urban flair, and the title song, with its reference to bars, along with the song "Heart of the City", put us in the midst of Manhattan, feeling the pulse of the town through one of its principle troubadours.

White had much to do with the first-rate production of *Defying Gravity*, and his mastery showed as he accompanied Wheeler for her set, never getting in the way, his piano always underscoring but never dominating Wheeler's guitar. White's back-up vocals stayed in the background, letting Wheeler shine with her tender vocals and clear-hearted, high-minded songs of country and kin folk, tear-jerkers about lost relationships — a sort of female John Denver, but darker, with a bit of Neil Young spirit.

Wheeler captures the nesting spirit of our times better than almost anyone save Weigle himself. With a country flair and sensibility wrapped up with warm New England neighborliness and a cockeyed humor that constantly has the audience in tears of laughter, Wheeler sings of roads winding through the afternoon, knowing nothing of the rage across the water, as the light fades from the sky; of not knowing how the heartache of the past can be repaired; of water flowing under a bridge; of wagging dogs, paddling kayaks, Summer being almost over. ... *Defying Gravity* is everything a folk album should be, and more, because it incorporates a couple of Wheeler's outrageously funny songs, including a real ringer devoted to cell phones beeping classical music! ▼



It's a rumble! Bass Eddy Skees (behind) and tenor Scott Mills tussle in "Tonight" from *West Side Story*. They appear with 160 fellow members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in *Divas' Revenge* at Davies Symphony Hall. See Monday.

Fri 8

Tranny Roadshow 2005

@ New College of California

Coming to New College of California: The Tranny Roadshow 2005. It's a multimedia performance-art extravaganza with an ensemble of transgender poets, rappers, sexy rockers, zinestars and more. This edgy celebration of gender variant artists has been rolling across the country for the past month. Performers include: Shawna Virago, Katastrophe, Soledad deCosta, Judy Jordan, Blake Nemec and more. Cost: \$3-30 sliding scale. Show begins at 7pm. New College of California (on Valencia between 18th and 19th). All ages. Info: judith@jordan@yahoo.com or trannyroadshow.org

Beautiful Child

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros, America's oldest professional queer theater, continues its 27th Season with the West Coast premiere of Nicky Silver's controversial black comedy *Beautiful Child*. Directed by John Dixon. How do you love someone who falls outside our moral code? Show runs thru Apr. 24. \$20 Thu., Sun. Mats & Sun Eves; \$25 Fri.; \$28 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat. 7pm Sun. eves. 3pm Sun. Mats (Apr. 10, 17 & 24). Main Stage, Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission/S. Van Ness). Tix: 415-861-5079; www.theatrhino.org

The Shooting Stage @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten continues with Michael Lewis MacLennan's award-winning drama *The Shooting Stage* directed by Dan Oliveira. This spellbinding drama unfolds around an obscurity trial that calls to mind the Robert Mapplethorpe controversy. Vancouver-born playwright/screenwriter MacLennan explores relationships, photographic images, adolescence and the loss of innocence in this complex play of intrigue. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. (beginning April 17). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

The Blue Dress @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents *The Blue Dress*, an autobiographical solo comedy written and performed by Bruce Bierman. *The Blue Dress* is the hilarious story of a closet drag queen's fight to reclaim a dress and his true self. \$18 Thu. & Sun.; \$20 Fri. & Sat. 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

Maitri Art Sale

@ Embarcadero 1

Opening reception: Maitri Art Sale (ten days only), featuring more than 2000 original works of art from some 300 local artists and students representing local art schools including the Academy of Art University, California College of the Arts, and the SF Art Institute. Paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, textiles. Free. 5-9pm reception. Show up from Apr. 8-17, 11am-9pm daily. Embarcadero 1, Lobby Level. Info: Javier Matos, 415-558-3002; mjatos@matrlist.org; www.matrlist.org

Tim'm West/Transition

@ Queer Open Mic

Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch, with guest reader Tim'm West, a funky ghetofab performer who spits lyrics 'bout poetics, politics, or the countryside, and he's proud to be a memba of the Deep Dickollective tribe. His book and CD are being weaved together to produce a Hip Hop theatre work, tentatively called "7th Breath". More info at www.reddirt.biz. Plus: Transition, the next wave of angsty teen idols, Butch Greenblatt and Crystal Vines. This contemplative trannybot and hot luscious engineer lady lover will rock your genderfucking socks off. Open Mic sign-up at 7:30; readings at 8pm. \$1-\$5 donation (NOTAFLÖF). (Open mic readers get five minutes; one poem or three pages of prose, whichever fits best). 8pm. Three Dollar Bill Cafe, 1800 Market St. at Octavia.

Jitterbugs Club

@ Queer Ballroom Studios

Learn Jitterbug, Charleston and Balboa swing dances with other Queer folk; no partner or experience needed. 7pm Beginning Balboa Series; 8pm Beginning Jitterbug (East Coast) Swing with Charleston Series. Fri., Apr. 8. \$10 drop-in; Discounts: \$35 for 4 week series; Queer Dance Pass good for half off monthly parties. Free if under 21. Queer Ballroom Studios, 151 Potrero Ave. 'tween 14th/15th. Info: 415-305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

Garrin Benfield/Samantha

@ The Independent

Garrin Benfield co-headline with Samantha and The Ritual at The Independent. New tunes, a new band member, and a bill with two exciting emerging bands. Come out and bring along a new friend and enjoy a hell of a party. Doors open 8pm. Garrin goes on at 10pm sharp; Samantha goes on at 11:30. The Independent, 628 Divisadero St. Tix: Ticketweb.com or at the door. Info: www.garrin.com

Sat 9

Queer Cartoonists Panel

@ Alternative Press Expo

Queer cartoonists speak out at this year's Alternative Press Expo. The second annual Queer Cartoonists Panel at APE will feature a stellar line-up of LGBT comic talent: Paige Braddock (*Jane's World*), Jennifer Camper (*Juicy Mother*, subGURLZ), Charles "Zan" Christensen (PRISM Comics), Leanne Franson (Liliane), David Kelly (*Boy Trouble*, *Steven's Comics*), and Robert Tryptop (Gay Comic, Strip AIDS USA). Moderated once again by Justin Hall (*True Travel Tales*). These creators will engage in a free-ranging discussion about issues of sexuality and identity in their art, the place of queer creators in the comic book world, and the sources of their inspiration. APE is the largest gathering of alternative and self-published comics in the country. In 2004, it drew a crowd of more than 3,800 attendees, and this year promises to be even bigger, in part because of the increased LGBT presence. The first Queer Cartoonists Panel was one of the best-at-

tended and received panels at the convention. APE is held in SF on April 9 & 10, with the Queer Cartoonists Panel taking place on Sat. the 9th, from 12:30-1:45pm. Admission: \$7 one day; \$10 both days; 2004 Comic-Con Members attend free (Bring your Comic-Con 2004 badge). The Concourse at Exhibition Square, 620 7th St. Info: www.comic-con.org/aqe

Joan Roughgarden/

Evolution's Rainbow

@ SF LGBT Center

Stanford Pride and QUEST (Queer University Employees at Stanford) present a Faculty Author Talk with Dr. Joan Roughgarden, renowned Stanford Professor of Biological Sciences and of Geophysics, for a book talk about *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender and Sexuality in Nature and People*. Hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine served. \$5 students; \$10 Stanford alumni; \$15 non-Stanford. 5-7pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. RSVP: visit the Roughgarden registration site at www.stanfordalumni.org

Lavender Seniors

of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their monthly potluck on Apr. 9 at noon at San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Volunteers of all ages needed to be friendly visitors for socially isolated seniors. Info: Peggy Moore, 510-667-9655.

Big Top Mondo Porno

@ Cat Club

Fudgie Frottage, Editrix Abby & Paradox Media present "Big Top Mondo Porno," a three-ring circus of debauched rock, free smut & psychotic clowns. In the center ring: Ramco Productions' *Clown Porn* (8:30pm); Larry, Hall & Jack (rock n' roll with Larry, Bob Roberts & pals), Three Merry Widows; Wood; and Girlfriend Experience (10pm). Plus: Kellita of Hot Pink Feather & Lily LeRouge take it all off. Under the Big Top: Erotic aerialists Vau De Vivre Society. DJ Damon spins raunch rock & circus sleaze. \$15. 8pm. Cat Club, 1190 Folsom St. Info: MondoPornoParty.com

Industry @ mezzanine

Industry celebrates its second anniversary with DJ Jamie J. Sanchez on the decks and a live set by Kristine W. singing dance anthems from yesterday and today. DJ Luke Johnstone fires up the night and the boys. (Industry will be closed Apr. 16, returning Apr. 23 with the debut of DJ/Producer Tracy Young). \$10 b4 11pm; \$20 after (half off with Boy Badge), 10pm-6am. mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. (at Mimi). Info: 415-625-8880; mezzanineSF.com

Q Ballroom Dance Party

@ Synergy School

Q Ballroom Dance Party. 7pm Beginning Cha Cha lesson, 8pm West Coast Swing lesson. 9pm to Midnight dance party. \$10 drop-in; half off for weekly class students; volunteers and under-21 free. Synergy School, 1387 Valencia St. at 25th. Info: 415-305-8242; QueerBallroom.com

Bootie @ Cherry Bar

DJs Adrian and the Mysterious D bring you Bootie, the monthly mash-up bootie party — the first of its kind in America. Direct from Paris, France, a guest set from DJ Zebra (djabra.free.fr), with resident DJs Party Ben, Mysterious D, Adrian and Dada. Sexy go go dancers: Marcy Meow, Catyana, Foxy, Steve Stanter. Midnight mash-up show starring Anna Conda. \$5 before 10pm; \$8 after. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 917 Folsom at 5th. Info: www.booties.com

The ROD @ Underground SF

Bent boys hit the Lower Haight tonight for some heavy cruising & hard cocktails at "The ROD," a new queer monthly presented every 2nd Saturday by Alcoholics Anonymous, a.k.a. DJ Bus Station John (*The Tubestack Connection*) & Jeff Leopold (*Smut Hu/Ky*). Feel 'em up & suck 'em down to the retro sounds of 70s/80s glitter-sleeze & electrocheese on SF's foggiest/tag-giest dance floor, or simply flaunt your hott-ness on our Rainbow Metatrack. Drink specials all nite. \$5. 10pm - 2am. Sat., Apr. 9 (and every 2nd Sat.). Underground SF (formerly The Top), 424 Haight St. (btwn Webster & Fillmore)

Pornorchestra

@ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's "Other Cinema" presents the SF premiere of Pornorchestra, a group of classically trained musicians who radically reinterpret soundtracks to sex films. \$6.90. Doors 8pm; showtime 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: othercinema.com

Sun 10

SF Hiking Club

@ Sunol Regional Park

Join other outdoors lovers for a Maguire Peaks, Sunol Regional Park hike. The route crosses open meadows full of spring wildflowers, oak woodlands, and down the wooded Indian Creek Trail. It's a moderate 11-mile hike with a 2,400-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: www.shiking.com

Sundance Saloon 7th Anniversary Party

@ *space 550

Celebrate seven years of two-steppin' and line dancin' every Sunday with Sundance Saloon. Souvenirs, surprises, entertainment, cowboys, cowgirls and plenty of great country-western dancing. Sundance Saloon is a nonprofit, all-volunteer enterprise. Free admission. Apr. 10 from 5-10:30pm (dance instruction from 5:30-7:15pm). 550 Barnveld Ave. (at *space550). Info: 415-820-1403; www.sundancesaloon.org

Philip Horvitz @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC)

JSC's first AIRSpace resident returns ten years after for a one-night-only show to benefit the JSC. Before moving to New York in 1996, Horvitz worked at most SF theatres, performance spaces and clubs as a performer, writer, and director. In 1995, Horvitz was the first artist in residence at the Jon Sims Center when it became a lab for new queer performance. Tonight Horvitz will present "Bob and Boris", an absurdist pornographic fantasy focused primarily on the alliteration of the letter B; "Heart Never Rests," the inner monologue of gay man in SF on the eve of the 1990s and his 30th birthday; "The Children's Hour," a new monologue that catches up with the narrator of "Heart" 15 years later. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 415-554-0400; www.jonsimsctr.org

SuperBigRockStar

@ Jon Sims Center

JSC AIRspace (Artist-In-Residence) presents SuperBigRockStar in *Unique Misunderstandings*. Using voice, dance, and the intricately Rebecca Graham and Sarah Starpelli will explore issues of family: connection, alienation, heartbreak, and absurdity. They'll be exploring why people always go home for the holidays, despite the agony it causes. They ignore girlfriends, fling set-ups with rich men from the backcountry, and ask: "Who are these drunks who call themselves my people? Why is it, when I go home, I miss my family?" \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). Sun., Apr. 10 at 6pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. at 11th. Tix/info: 415-554-0400; www.jonsimsctr.org

Floored @ Café Flore

Cruise the dregs of the weekend at "Floored!" Sundays @ Café Flore, newly equipped with DJ booth & hard liquor license. DJ Bus Station John wreck the turntables on alternate Sundays (4/10 & 4/24); Juanita MORE! spins on 4/17. Supper! Spelling & Ms. Aaron Dolson start the party at 4pm. \$5 Enormously Long Island Teas. Permission to have fun in the Castro again? Granted! No cover. Every Sunday 4-11. Café Flore (2298 Market/Noe)

Bambi Lake @ The LAB

Bambi Lake and Birdie-Bob Watt debut Bambi's new CD, *Broadway Hostess* as well as Bambi's current book, *Smash & Grab*. Celebrate Ms. Lake's punk rock tranny self and uninkable spirit. 2pm. The LAB, 2948 16th St. between Mission and South Van Ness. Info: www.thelab.org

Mon 11

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus: Divas' Revenge

@ Davies Symphony Hall

In concert: The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, with more than 200 singers, performs *Divas' Revenge: Opera & Broadway Our Way*, a tribute to opera and Broadway, led by SFGMC Conductor and Artistic Director Dr. Kathleen McGuire. Plus the 45-piece Community Women's Orchestra. The all-opera first act features SFGMC's rendition of the Pilgrims' Chorus from Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser*; Mozart's *Priests' Chorus* from the opera *Die Zauberflöte*; Carmen's *Torador's Song*; and a humorous Mozart adaptation, "Eine kleine NOT Musik." Act Two tackles Broadway tunes familiar and obscure, with selections from *Gypsy*, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *Falsettoland*, *West Side Story* and more. Expect plenty of the chorus' trademark "choralography" along with the music. \$20-\$75. 8pm. Tix: SF Symphony Box Office; 415-864-6000 (\$8 service charge by phone; no fee in person). Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. at Grove. Info: 415-865-3650; www.sfgmc.org

Tue 12

New Leaf 2005 Spring Gala @ Teatro Zinzanni

New Leaf: Services for Our Community invites you to join Master of Ceremonies Leslie Jordan for New Leaf's annual Spring Gala. Special "Gal Pal" Guests: Honey Labrador & Robbie Laughlin of Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*. Event chair: Charles L. Huff, VP, New Leaf Board of Directors. Honorees: Jeffrey Sterman, Public Affairs Director, SF Medical Center; Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and Hospitals; Academy of Friends (Elisabeth Loeffler, Executive Director & Randall ("Randy") A. Shields, Chair, Board of Direc-



Philip Horvitz returns to the Jon Sims Center. See Sunday.

tors; and Dr. Penny Nixon, Senior Pastor of MCC-SF, & Metropolitan Community Foundation, Lea Brown, Acting Executive Director. Cocktail & buffet Reception by Taste Catering. Silent Auction. Tickets start at \$150. 6-9pm. Teatro Zinzanni (Pier 29). Tix: call Saurabh Bajaj, Development Manager, at 415-255-0381; online at www.newleafservices.org

Juicy Mother @ A Different Light Bookstore

Jennifer Camper, Leanne Franson, and Robert Triptow read from *Juicy Mother*, an alternative to alternative comics. This cartoon anthology features work by and about queers, women, and people of color. Showcasing work by such well-known cartoonists as Alison Bechdel, Howard Cruse, and Diane DiMassa. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. at 18th. Info: 415-431-0891; www.adl-books.com

Creating a Family @ SF LGBT Center

Creating a Family: Choices for Prospective Parents. Are you thinking about becoming a parent? Come to this panel to learn about all the options available to LGBT individuals. Representatives will include the Sperm Bank of California, Family Builders by Adoption and Adoption Connection. Co-sponsored by: Children OF Lesbians And Gays Everywhere, LYRIC, New Leaf Services for Our Community, Our Family Coalition, and SF LGBT Community Center. Free. Tue., Apr. 12, 6:30-8:00pm at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. at Octavia. To register, call Our Family Coalition at 415-981-1960.

Wed 13

Raw Material @ Club Eros

Club Eros & The Ajax Ulu Collective present "Raw Material," an evening of music and laughter. Featuring Joannie Wartella, sketch comic; Brent Calderwood, musician; and Windy Plains, Faux Queen. \$5 donation at door (NOTAFLOP). 7:30pm Wed., Apr. 13. Eros, 2051 Market St. Info: 415-255-4921; www.erossf.com

Thu 14

Frameline/School's Out @ The LGBT Center

Frameline at The Center: Free Screenings for the Community, presents *School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas* (Jeremy Simmons, 2002). Co-presented by A&P Wellness Center, AQU25A, Dimensions Clinic, GSA Network, Larkin Street Youth Services, LYRIC, and Youth Gender Project. If being gay and closeted in high school seems tough enough, try being a 17-year-old pre-operative transsexual junior. As one of only three schools in the country with curricula specifically designed for LGBT students, Walt Whitman Community School in Dallas truly places its students' welfare first. Confronting great odds, these young queers step up to the plate for themselves and each other. Screening followed by panel discussion. Free. Apr. 14 at 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. at Octavia.

Confessions of a Mormon Boy @ NCTC

Opening night: The newly expanded and revised *Confessions of a Mormon Boy*, a solo show by Steven Fales, directed by Jack Hofiss, returns to NCTC for a 10-performance run. Told with humor, song and the Book of Mormon, in his unflinchingly honest comic/dramatic monologue, Steven Fales, a sixth-generation Mormon, plays various characters from his highly distinctive life's journey as a gay Mormon, an Eagle Scout, missionary to Portugal, BYU graduate, husband, father, and Manhattan escort. *Confessions of a Mormon Boy* details Fales' failed attempt to overcome his "same-sex attraction" through "reparative therapy." Apr. 13-24, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. mat. at 2pm. \$20 preview (Apr. 13 at 8pm); \$35 opening night. \$30 Fri.-Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Open House/Sporting Life/Queer Human Rights Tour @ GLBT Historical Society

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the GLBT Historical Society hosts an Open House, showcasing the new exhibit "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change, 1960s to Today," curated by Jim Provenzano, and including guided tours of the society's archives with a focus on the international scope of the GLBT movement. Get a behind-the-scenes look at manuscripts, periodicals, and graphic arts never before displayed publicly. Also, Board Member Gerard Koskovich leads "Queer Human Rights: A Tour of Historical Sources." The tour is as part of the year-long, city-wide "UN60 Celebration" marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, which was founded in SF in 1945. It all happens on Thu., Apr. 14, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the GLBT Historical Society Museum, Archives & Research Center, 657 Mission St., Suite 300 (between New Montgomery & 3rd St.). Info: 415-777-5455; www.glbthistory.org. Complete schedule of UN60 educational & cultural events: www.una-sf.org/un60.htm

Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park, Oakland

The Lavender Lunch Bunch, part of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, hosts a catered lunch for Oakland's LGBT African American, Latino, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Co-sponsored by City of Oakland Dept. of Human Services. 12:30-2:30pm. Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Info: Peggy Moore, 510-667-9655.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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The 2005 Bare Chest Calendar raised \$50,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources; the 2006 winners put on another great display of male pulchritude.

Plan for lots of action

Leather springs up all around nation

by Mister Marcus

The coming months promise a lot of leather action. Summer looms ahead with scads of events geared toward awarding new sashes, fundraising, play parties, demonstrations and weekend runs geared to entice newbies and veterans alike. Lots of educational stuff will be put out there for those interested in learning about the leather/bdsm lifestyle. There's everything from the Leather Leadership Conference to a Snugglefest to a "Spring Maneuvers" to a "no contest" leather gathering.

How to take it all in? Gatherings like the Leather Leadership Conference (LLC) taking place in Phoenix next weekend is a good start. It's difficult to assess just how many "leaders" emerge from the LLC conferences held in a different city each year. Maybe if the presentations were put on an academic plane and issued Certificates of Completion or Graduation Certificates, an attendee could add that accomplishment to their resume.

Just a thought, but how many people have said to you: "Oh, I attended LLC (last) (this) (that)

year and have put to use many of the skills I learned there in my daily life as a leather man/woman"? I have the greatest respect for John Weis who had the foresight to create LLC and it's a good thing to attend and learn skills that will enhance your journey through the leather world.

Nationally, the Mr. Midwest Leather 2005 contest takes place in Dubuque, Iowa this weekend; and in Phoenix, Arizona the 9th Annual Leather Leadership Conference is taking place. People are torn between one or the other, but I am sure the attendance at both events will be adequate to satisfy the producers/sponsors.

The weekend of April 15-17, it's American Brotherhood Weekend in the Washington, D.C. area, where they will choose American Leather man, Leather woman, Leather boy and Leather girl for 2005. Robert, Tracy, Terry and Beth have done a good job with their title year and their successors have BIG shoes to fill.

The next weekend, April 22-24, it's "Snugglefest 2005" in San Diego with the California Cub/Grizzly 2005 contest. For info, visit www.cubclubca.com.

The premiere Southern California uniform club, Regiment of



Dodger Allen is Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 and will compete at IML 2005 on Memorial Day Weekend.

the Black & Tans, has its annual "Spring Maneuvers" in the Southland. For details, hop over to www.blackandtans.org.

The last weekend in April, Dennis McMahon and Bob Miller stage their "no contest" leather weekend with CLAW (Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend). Play parties, auctions, and dinners, touring of the local highlights and more. Check out www.clawinfo.org.

In Oklahoma City, it's "Tribal next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 7

The 10th round of the 2006 Bare Chest Calendar contests takes place at the Powerhouse tonight at around 2200. It's the last one before the finals on April 21 & 28.

Weekend, April 8-10

The 9th Annual Leather Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Midwest Leather 2005 contest in Dubuque, Iowa at the One Flite Up Bar. Winner advances to compete at IML 2005.

Sunday, April 10

Inter-Club Fund Bike Blessing at the Eagle Tavern, followed by a bike ride and a \$8 beer/soda bust at the bar immediately following the ride.

Tuesday, April 12

Bondage Buddies at 933 Harrison St. tonight. Doors open 2100 to 2300. Get all tied up with your pals.

Saturday, April 16

The campiest night of the month — it's the Golden

Dildeaux Awards for 2005 at the Eagle Tavern, with Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet supplying their acerbic wit. Voting in progress. Don't miss this one!

Weekend, April 15-17

American Brotherhood Weekend in the Wash, D.C. area selecting American Leather Man, Woman, Boy and Girl. Lots of action here!

Thursday, April 21

The 1st half of the Bare Chest Calendar Finals. Six men will be chosen tonight, and six more next week.

Weekend, April 22-24

"Snugglefest 2005" in San Diego, choosing California Cub/Grizzly 2005.

In Kansas City, Missouri, it's the KC Pioneers weekend.

Black & Tans "Spring Maneuvers" in the Los Angeles area.

Weekend, April 29-May 1

CLAW in Cleveland, Ohio with fundraising, demos, dungeon parties and no contests.

Here's the beef

by John F. Karr

Remember the old beefcake company slogan, "Men to Match the Mountains?" Well, in Colt Studio's new *Muscle Up!*, the men are mountains. And they've got The Meat that Matches. *Muscle Up!* is a muscle-lover's riot, including muscledaddy and muscleboy, biker-bruiser and bodybuilder. There's hairy muscle and smooth, improbably massive and naturally sleek. It's also a veritable United Nations of Muscle: white and black, Australian and Asian, plus Italian, Spanish, German, and French-Canadian. All the men are hung; seven of the nine are uncut. And almost all of them haul the goods out of undersized, wet Speedos that cling so lasciviously to engorged masses of cock you'd think they were... well, me!

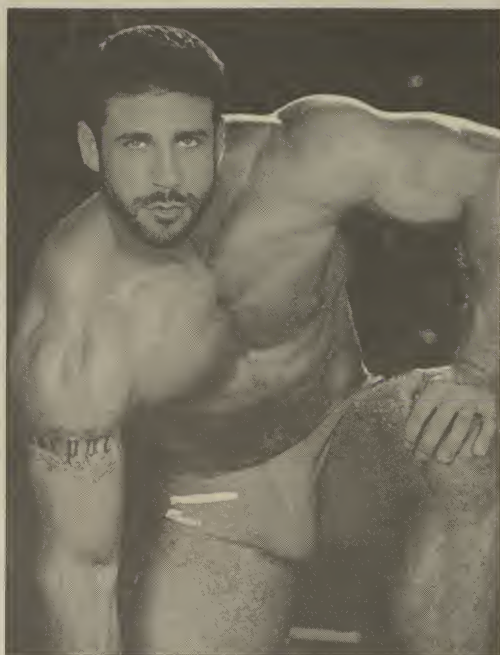
The setting of *Muscle Up!* is luxurious, and its production values glossy. Its five scenes take place poolside on a hot summer's day, with director John Rutherford catching a languid sensuality that's nonetheless charged with the sun's seething intensity. Rutherford shows a new confidence, riding an expansive mood. Running Colt Studio is butchering Rutherford up. He's seconded by his editor, Andrew Rosen, with less of the whiplash edit that mars so much porn.

Box-cover idol Carlo Masi tops in the first scene and bottoms in the last. That's what I call well-rounded. He's huge and solid, with dark, curly hair over his chest and in his butterback. His pecs are vast serving plates for the toothsome treat of succulent, fleshy



Karrnal Knowledge

nipples. Masi is a very lusty man, quite carnivorous in his cocksucking and rimming. And he's so thoughtful. Listen to him compliment the broadly built Mike Dasher, who's riding atop him in a pounding Reverse Cowboy. Masi's become a brute, bucking in fury, blasting his cock into Dasher as if burying a depth charge that'll make the guy explode. As Dasher's short but ponderously thick cock whirls wildly about, Masi growls, "You're gonna kill me, baby," like Dasher's the one doing the screwing. He is, in a way — this is what I call partnering, the kind of bang-



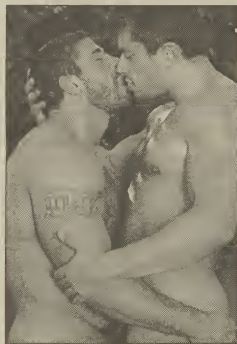
Colt Studio's exclusive Carlo Masi is huge and solid, and a very lusty man.

ing that threatens to make Tectonic Plates shift in the very Earth.

In the movie's last scene, Masi is mauled by Adam Dexter, a beautiful black man who starts out wearing a small, yellow Speedo, and ends up wearing an extra-large, beefy Italian. It's Masi riding the Reverse Cowboy this time, and it's a beaut:

with his hands clasped behind his head, his delts and pecs flare over an elongated torso while his steel cock bats savagely against unyielding thighs. It makes him shoot plenty far.

Dave Angelo was pretty scary in an SM-flavored scene in Colt's *Big 'n' Plenty*, but he turns tender though no less demanding when he devours jockey-sized Lee Young, a Texas-bred Asian morsel of muscle. Edu Boxer is scandalously pretty. In contrast, his body is hairy and powerful; his sexuality aggressive. He's paired with rough-looking Pierro Sias,



Masi and Mike Dasher go at it.

whose top-like attitude makes him an exciting bottom for Boxer's hammered spike.

My favorite scene is the one with the least amount of actual sex. But it reeks with erotics. It's a scene of muscle worship for broad-shouldered, German hunk Chris Wide and supersized Roger Danik. This demigod is also known as Big Roger, a name with-

page 45 ►

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Fire" weekend, but at my deadline, no details of the weekend had been sent out. Try: www.tribalfireok.com.

In Denver, former American Leather Woman, the lovable Phyllis Darcy stages "Dynamic Diversions in Denver" weekend with myriad events for leather/bdsm women. Check out www.dynamicdiversionsindenver.com.

The first weekend in May, it's the Sacramento Leather Sir/boy contest (enroute to No. California LS/b later this year) produced by www.isproductions.org/home2.html.

Those who can make it will attend Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's Family Reunion up at the Russian River town of Guerneville, California, an hour's drive north of San Francisco. Special rates are available if you send a "nice"

Email to: Leslie@RussianRiverResort.com.

Another leather women's bdsm weekend is scheduled in Palm Springs the weekend of May 20-22. "Desire" will hold forth at a private resort and if you're interested, surf to www.desireleatherwomen.com.

Of course, the biggie of the year is the International Mr. Leather 2005 contest in Chicago. Rooms are still available at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Wacker Drive. All the info you need to know is at www.iml.com.

June will see gay pride parades across the nation. In Canada, June 10-12, it's the Eastern Canada Leather Sir/boy contest in Toronto, this year at the Black Eagle. Leather Pride in New York City happens the weekend of June 17-19, and the Folsom Street East Fair is on that Sunday.

That's plenty to digest for the coming months, so start planning now to insure hotel rooms, flights

and event tickets.

Bare Chest Calendar progress

The 9th preliminary round in the 2006 *Bare Chest Calendar* odyssey happened last Thursday, March 30, at the Powerhouse Bar. Not only did a whopping six men participate, all of them landed a spot in the finals to be held in late April.

The six chests chosen: Chris Duncan, Bob Brascino, Brad Smith, Marshall George, "Just Joey" and Eric Anderson. The 10th & final round is tonight, Thursday, April 7. All winners will compete in a 2-segment final round on April 21 and 28. The calendar is looking good for the 2006 edition!

More kudos for Tony

The Easter Basket Auction staged by former SF Leather Daddy Tony Koester netted some \$3600 for the Stop AIDS Project. Bravo & thanks! ▼

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Pageantry, pomp & the populace

Full weekend of parties and royal investiture recapped



Just another face in the crowd at Dolores Park on Easter Sunday.

by Donna Sachet

Just how many events can one attend in a single day? Last Saturday certainly belongs in the record books, starting with a beautiful stroll through the Castro and our first stop at Twin Peaks, home of friendly bartenders, cordial customers, and tasty cocktails, all in a historic SF setting. An unexpected demonstration at the corner of Castro and Market threw a wrench into our transportation plans, but if you haven't tried the F-line yet, climb on board!

Within minutes, we were with-in a bus ride of the Cinch on Polk Street, where we joined the celebration of life for **Greta Grass**, recently deceased Queen Mother of the San Francisco Imperial Family. A beautiful display of photographs taken over the course of her many years in the city was a truly fitting tribute to this colorful character. Among the crowd were the reigning **Emperor John-Richard**, reigning **Empress Tiger Lily**, **Empresses Jose Sarría**, **Pushy Phyllis**, **Susie Wong**, **Marlena** and **Alexis Miranda**, **Grand Duke Fred Townsend**, **Keith** and **Gladys Bumps**, and **Roxie Hart**.

From there, we headed to Martini's for the 70th birthday party for **Ina Mae Valentino**, celebrated by her son **Stephen Valentino**, top State Democrat **Art Tor-**



A pair of man-bunnies enjoying their spread in the park on Easter Sunday.

res, **Ellen Greene** of *Little Shop of Horrors* fame, and many others. Then the opening of the new exhibit of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, *Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today* at their headquarters on Mission St. What a moving record of the gay movement in sports! Including posters, clippings, video footage, and paraphernalia related to **Tom Waddell**, the Gay Games,

and other aspects of sports, this is a display you must see. Guest curator **Jim Provenzano** received well-deserved commendation from a bustling crowd, including **State Assemblyman Mark Leno** and city **Supervisor Bevan Dufty**. We ended the day in the Castro at a fundraiser for the Gay Rodeo at The Edge and a birthday party for **Darryl Jannson** at Daddy's. From a celebration of life to a birthday party and embracing all the emotions along the way, what a Saturday it was.

Best invest

Sunday, April 3, was Imperial Investiture at the Swedish American Hall on Market St. The evening began with national anthems sung by San Jose **Emperor Kevin Roche**, SF **Emperor Brian**

Benamati, and myself; then, a formal crowning and investing of the newly elected Emperor and Empress of San Francisco, full of pageantry and pomp, but sprinkled with humor. The **Sisters of Perpetual Indul-**

gence then gave the new monarchs their own special blessing, led by **Sister Dana Van Inquity** in a ceremony light on pomp but full of humor. As the monarchs dispensed court titles, various title-holders enter-

tained, most notably **Deana Dawn** with back-up from **Melissa Garcia** and **Tanya Hullana**, and emcees **Sister Roma** and **Imperial Count Bart**. Looking particularly stunning that night were **Empress of Stockton Ro Flack Franklin**, **Empress of Alameda Courtney St. James**, **Chika**, and the always dashing elegant **Host Eichner**. So the Court of Swinging Monkeys and Roaring Tigers is off to a good start!

We'll see you in the coming weeks at the **Gay Men's Chorus** concert *Diva's Revenge* at Davies Symphony Hall on April 11, the **Golden Gate Guards'** annual *Golden Dildeaux Awards* at the Eagle on April 16, and **Under One Roof's** annual Gala in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building on April 19. ▼



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The Imperial Court 40th Anniversary party and program were simply sensational! Many special thank-yous are deserved by all those who helped to put it together, especially that most handsome Emperor 27 A.N., T. J. Istvan, and to the Gladys Bumps family for all of the photos. You can tell the booklet was a work of love and thoughtfulness.

The Cinch Saloon gathering for the late, great Greta Grass on Saturday, April 2nd was very moving, with an unbelievable turnout of friends who loved her. I saw so many wonderful people, and the food by that unique chef, Dennis Tyler, was exceptional.

They are back! The whole Puerto Vallarta crowd, mostly Cinch bartenders and some customers. Everyone said they had a hectic but great time. They certainly looked tan and rested!

That great party bar Marlena's is doing it again! On Sunday,

April 10, from 4-8 p.m., Marlena's (488 Hayes St.) will be toasting the popular Emperor 18, Simeon, who is moving away! This will be a "Bon Voyage but Not Forgotten" party, with a stage show at 5 p.m. You'll be missed by so many people, Simeon, including me!

There was a great turnout on Sunday, April 3 at the fantastic party for Robbie's (aka Helen Trent) 70th Birthday Bash! José put on a fabulous show and the place went up in laughter and hysterics.

I hear that Club Rendez-Vous has found a new location, and that possibly I worked there years ago! No name yet, but it would appear it is a go—all signed, sealed, and about to be delivered.

Ran into Mr. First Nighter, Wayne Friday, and had a nice chat with him. He says he is busier now than ever since he retired.

Here we are into the 4th month of the year, and it seems we've only just begun to have fun! I hope things are going well for you; better weather sure lifts everyone's spirits! ▼



Man music

◀ page 39

1972 from a couple of years ago. I didn't think it was possible, but with Nashville, Rouse has surpassed that high point. Opening track "It's the Nighttime" echoes the '70s, but he doesn't stay there for long. "Winter in the Hamptons" is among the most infectious modern pop songs I've heard in a while, and the incandescent "Streetslights" is simply luminous. The harmonica and guitar that suggest Nashville on "My Love Has Gone" are the perfect counterpoint to the soulful "Saturday." The piano- and vocal-driven "Sad Eyes" spills over into a lushly orchestrated tearjerker.

Folk ways

Musician Richard Shindell has recorded for both Shanachie and Signature Sounds, record labels firmly based in the folk-music tradition. His latest album *Vuelta* (Koch) finds him not only on a new record label, but also in a new country. Currently living in Buenos Aires, Shindell hasn't lost his knack

for telling a story in a song ("Hazel's House," "Che Guevara T-Shirt"), he's augmented it with the influences of his new home ("Canción Sencilla," "Fenario").

On *Alternative to Love* (V2), the eagerly anticipated, third full-length album by songwriter Brendan Benson, he proves that he knows how to incorporate his influences from the '60s, '70s and '80s (the Hollies, ELO) in ways that make him sound like he's paying homage while making the music new and his own at the same time.

I've been waiting more than 25 years for someone to write an answer song to The Police's "Born in the '50s," and Ed Harcourt has done just that with "Born in the '70s" from his latest album *Strangers* (Astralwerks). Born in '77, "the year punk broke," Harcourt makes music that has a timeless quality.

Hailing from Baltimore, Cass McCombs' music is both eerie and soothing, an odd combination that seems to work for the songs on *PERFECTION* (Monitor). He even has it in him to step into unadulterated pop song mode. ▼

Porn

◀ page 43

out exaggeration; give him a Google and you'll catch the fever. He's a vast, rolling terrain of smooth flesh stretched taut over monumental muscle. And talk about bubble-butts. Either side of this one is large enough for Glinda to arrive in. Roger's such a sensual stud, clasping Wide's hand and kissing the back of his palm. They pose for each other, puff up their muscles, and plump their Speedo-clad crotches. Roger's intoxicated as he caresses Wide's body, exploring it so intently you think he's charting a map of un-conquered territories. The big men meld together: two hemispheres reversing Continental Drift. But this extended foreplay is

about to spontaneously combust. When Wide licks his thumb and squirrels it into Roger's suckling mouth, a dam of desire bursts, and the men grab their buddy's cock, only to go up in sudden flames of furious beating that abruptly makes the jizz fly. Then it's over. I was so stunned that I didn't immediately realize there had been no penetrative sex. Could it be that Roger's straight? He's been in another gay film, under the name Tom Lord, but that was only a solo. And in a video of self-love for sale at his website, he's awfully into his butt-hole (as is a small dildo). But why try and pin him down, when he gives us such a stunning session of man-and-muscle love in *Muscle Up!* As do all his co-stars in this big beef-love epic. www.ColtStudio.com ▼

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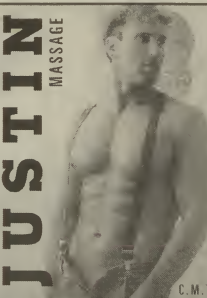
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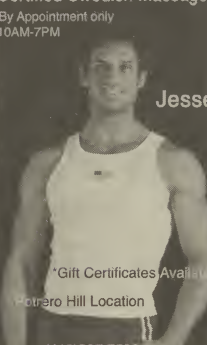
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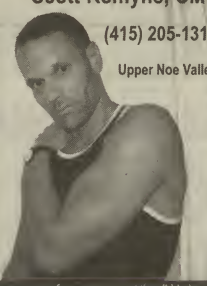
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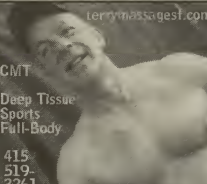
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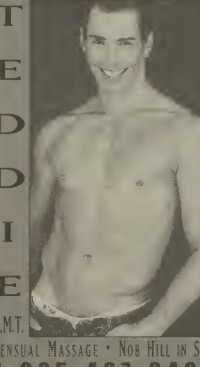
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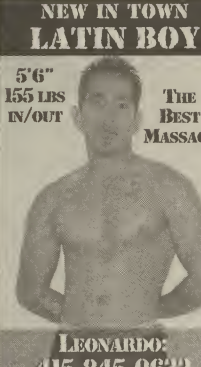
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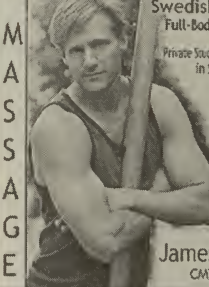

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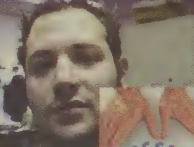
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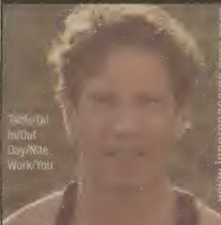
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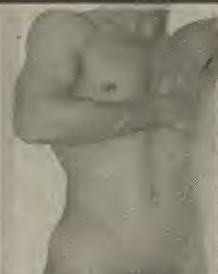
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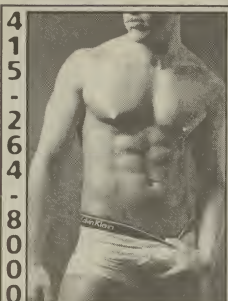


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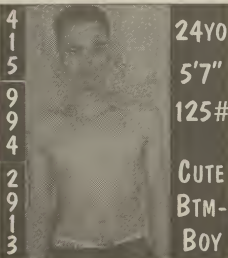
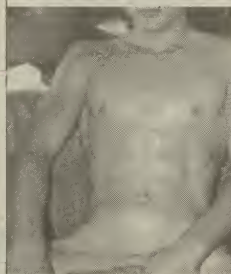
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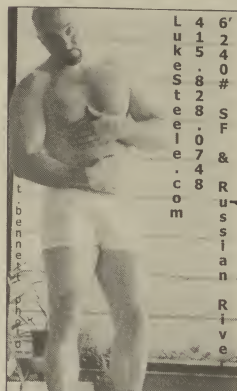
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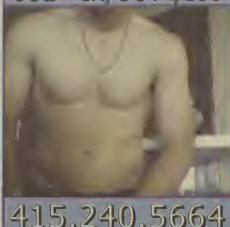
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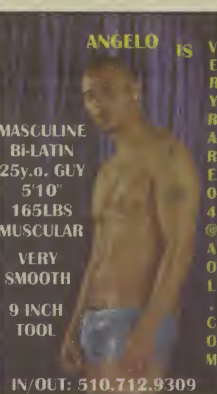
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Looking For Serious Nipple Workout Buddy
50yr old, stocky 220# serious nip pig w huge
erect nips. Brn, brn, salt & pepper moustache.
Into studs w huge nips, muscles & pointed cowboy
boots! ISO dominant, muscular nip workout boud-
dy for serious nip workout sessions! Smoker a +
☎ 71511

COUPLES

Gay Older Male Wants To Be Massaged
Single Male Lkng for a couple to massage me
naked inside my apartment ☎ 71519

OTHERS

Full Body Massage Wanted
by attractive, in-shape, smooth experienced or li-
censed Asian male on a regular basis. I enjoy hav-
ing every part of my nude body massaged includ-
ing my chest, back, legs, feet, buttocks, etc. Flexi-
ble times, incl. mornings, afternoons, weekdays.
No pay only. ☎ 71521



www.stevemurdermill.com

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

PEOPLE

XXX WEB

WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
 - Meet Ads
 - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

Free
(415) 981-8123

ADULT JOBS OFFERED

OLDER MEN WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only 55+ men. Good pay call mark 626-473-2765 or modelssf@older4me.com

FACTORY VIDEO

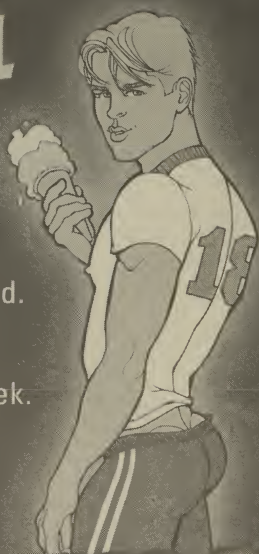
You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off + Making \$\$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070.
www.factoryvideos.com

XXX WEB

WANT TO GET OFF?
WWW.MECCAMEN.COM
WWW.XCOMEDIA.COM

REAL

All ads have photos and are pre-screened. Live help available 7 days a week.



HUGE

Over 300,000 members and five languages worldwide.



m4m-usa.com

LOCAL

At least 5,500 men online at all times!



now

Available in 58 cities. Find men wherever you are!



BAY AREA REPORTER

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ BOLD Stops Here ▼ CAPS Stop Here ▼ Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 6.00
All subsequent lines 4.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number _____
3-Digit Security Code _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____
Name _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Issues _____ Classification _____ Amount Enclosed _____

MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:
BAY AREA REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144



COME TOGETHER

GAY.COM